

**PHẦN 2: ĐỌC HIỂU – 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**

A distinctively American architecture began with Frank Lloyd Wright, who had taken to heart the admonition that form should follow function, and who thought of buildings not as separate architectural entities but as parts of an organic whole that included the land, the community, and the society. In a very real way the houses of colonial New England and some of the southern plantations had been functional, but Wright was the first architect to make functionalism the authoritative principle for public as well as for domestic buildings.

As early as 1906 he built the Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois, the first of those churches that did so much to revolutionize ecclesiastical architecture in the United States. Thereafter he turned his genius to such miscellaneous structures as houses, schools, office buildings, and factories, among them the famous Larkin Building in Buffalo, New York, and the Johnson Wax Company Building in Racine, Wisconsin.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) The architecture of public buildings
- (B) An architectural pioneer
- (C) New England architecture
- (D) principles of architecture

2. The phrase “taken to heart” in lines 1-2 is closest in meaning to which of the following?

- (A) Taken seriously
- (B) Criticized
- (C) Memorized

(D) Taken offence

3. The word “admonition” in line 2 is closest in meaning to

- (A) monition
- (B) support
- (C) discussion
- (D) consideration

4. The word “entities” in line 3 is closest in meaning to

- (A) principles
- (B) existences
- (C) subtractions
- (D) properties

5. In what way did Wright's public buildings differ from most of those built by earlier architects?

- (A) They were built on a larger scale.
- (B) Their materials came from the southern United States.
- (C) They looked more like private homes.
- (D) Their designs were based on how they would be used.

6. The author mentions the Unity Temple because it

- (A) was Wright's first building
- (B) influenced the architecture of subsequent churches
- (C) demonstrated traditional ecclesiastical architecture
- (D) was the largest church Wright ever designed

7. Which of the following statements best reflects one of Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural principles?

- (A) Beautiful design is more important than utility.
- (B) Ecclesiastical architecture should be derived from traditional designs.
- (C) A building should fit into its surroundings.
- (D) The architecture of public buildings does not need to be revolutionary.

8. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a type of structure Frank Lloyd Wright made?

- (A) houses
  - (B) factories
  - (C) southern plantations
  - (D) churches
-

## READING 2

There are two basic types of glaciers, those that flow outward in all directions with little regard for any underlying terrain and those that are confined by terrain to a particular path.

The first category of glaciers includes those massive blankets that cover whole continents, appropriately called ice sheets. There must be over 50,000 square kilometers of land covered with ice for the glacier to qualify as an ice sheet. When portions of an ice sheet spread out over the ocean, they form ice shelves.

About 20,000 years ago the Cordilleran Ice Sheet covered nearly all the mountains in southern Alaska, western Canada, and the western United States. It was about 3 kilometers deep at its thickest point in northern Alberta. Now there are only two sheets left on Earth, those covering Greenland and Antarctica.

Any domelike body of ice that also flows out in all directions but covers less than 50,000 square kilometers is called an ice cap. Although ice caps are rare nowadays, there are a number in northeastern Canada, on Baffin Island, and on the Queen Elizabeth Islands.

The second category of glaciers includes those of a variety of shapes and sizes generally called mountain or alpine glaciers. Mountain glaciers are typically identified by the landform that controls their flow. One form of mountain glacier that resembles an ice cap in that it flows outward in several directions is called an ice field. The difference between an ice field and an ice cap is subtle. Essentially, the flow of an ice field is somewhat controlled by surrounding terrain and thus does not have the domelike shape of a cap. There are several ice fields in the Wrangell, St. Elias, and Chugach mountains of Alaska and northern British Columbia.

Less spectacular than large ice fields are the most common types of mountain glaciers: the cirque and valley glaciers. Cirque glaciers are found in depressions in the surface of the land and have a characteristic circular shape. The ice of valley glaciers, bound by terrain, flows down valleys, curves around their corners, and falls over cliffs.

9. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) Where major glaciers are located
- (B) How glaciers shape the land
- (C) How glaciers are formed
- (D) The different kinds of glaciers

10. It can be inferred that ice sheets are so named for which of the following reasons?

- (A) They are confined to mountain valleys.
- (B) They cover large areas of land.
- (C) They are thicker in some areas than in others.

(D) They have a characteristic circular shape.

11. According to the passage, where was the Cordilleran Ice Sheet thickest?

- (A) Alaska
- (B) Greenland
- (C) Alberta
- (D) Antarctica

12. The word “rare” in line 13 is closest in meaning to

- (A) small
- (B) unusual
- (C) valuable
- (D) widespread

13. According to the passage (paragraph 5), ice fields resemble ice caps in which of the following ways?

- (A) Their shape
- (B) Their flow
- (C) Their texture
- (D) Their location

14. All of the following are alpine glaciers EXCEPT

- (A) cirque glaciers
- (B) ice caps
- (C) valley glaciers
- (D) ice fields

15. The word “depressions” in line 25 is closest in meaning to

- (A) intrusion
- (B) dejection
- (C) concaves
- (D) convexes

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### READING 3

The first two decades of this century were dominated by the microbe hunters. These hunters had tracked down one after another of the microbes responsible for the most dreaded scourges of many centuries; tuberculosis, cholera, diphtheria. But there remained some terrible diseases for which no microbe could be incriminated: scurvy, pellagra, rickets, beriberi. Then it was discovered that these diseases were caused by

the lack of vitamins, a trace substance in the diet. The diseases could be prevented or cured by consuming foods that contained the vitamins. And so in the decades of the 1920's and 1930's, nutrition became a science and the vitamin hunters replaced the microbe hunters.

In the 1940's and 1950's, biochemists strived to learn why each of the vitamins was essential for health. They discovered that key enzymes in metabolism depend on one or another of the vitamins as coenzymes to perform the chemistry that provides. You are aware that the enzyme hunters have been replaced by a new breed of hunters who are tracking genes — the blueprints for each of the enzymes — and are discovering the defective genes that cause inherited diseases — diabetes, cystic fibrosis. These gene hunters, or genetic engineers, use recombinant DNA technology to identify and clone genes and introduce them into bacterial cells and plants to create factories for the massive of hormones and vaccines for medicine and for better crops for agriculture. Biotechnology has become a multibillion-dollar industry.

In view of the inexorable progress in science, we can expect that the gene hunters will be replaced in the spotlight. When and by whom? Which kind of hunter will dominate the scene in the last decade of our waning century and in the early decades of the next? I wonder whether the hunters who will occupy the spotlight will be neurobiologists who apply the techniques of the enzyme and gene hunters to the functions of the brain. What to call them? The head hunters. I will return to them later.

24. What is the main topic of the passage?

- (A) The microbe hunters
- (B) The potential of genetic engineering
- (C) The progress of modern medical research
- (D) The discovery of enzymes

25. Which of the following can be cured by a change in diet?

- (A) Tuberculosis
- (B) Cholera
- (C) Cystic fibrosis
- (D) Pellagra

26. How do vitamins influence health?

- (A) They are necessary for some enzymes to function.
- (B) They protect the body from microbes.
- (C) They keep food from spoiling.
- (D) They are broken down by cells to produce energy.

27. In the third paragraph, the author compares cells that have been genetically altered by biotechnicians to
- (A) gardens
  - (B) factories
  - (C) hunters
  - (D) spotlights
28. The phrase “occupy the spotlight” in line 23 is closest in meaning to
- (A) receive the most attention
  - (B) go the furthest
  - (C) conquer territory
  - (D) lighten the load
29. The author implies that the most important medical research topic of the future will be
- (A) the functions of the brain
  - (B) inherited diseases
  - (C) the operation of vitamins
  - (D) the structure of genes
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#### READING 4

In the mid-nineteenth century, the United States had tremendous natural resources that could be exploited in order to develop heavy industry. Most of the raw materials that are valuable in the manufacture of machinery, transportation facilities, and consumer goods lay ready to be worked into wealth. Iron, coal, and oil — the basic ingredients of industrial growth — were plentiful and needed only the application of technical expertise, organizational skill, and labor.

One crucial development in this movement toward industrialization was the growth of the railroads. The railway network expanded rapidly until the railroad map of the United States looked like a spider's web, with the steel filaments connecting all important sources of raw materials, their places of manufacture, and their centers of distribution. The railroads contributed to the industrial growth not only by connecting these major centers, but also by themselves consuming enormous amounts of fuel, iron, and coal.

Many factors influenced emerging modes of production. For example, machine tools, the tools used to make goods, were steadily improved in the latter part of the nineteenth century — always with an eye to speedier production and lower unit costs. The products of the factories were rapidly absorbed by the growing cities that sheltered the workers and the distributors. The increased urban population was nourished by the increased farm production that, in turn, was made more productive

by the use of the new farm machinery. American agricultural production kept up with the urban demand and still had surpluses for sale to the industrial centers of Europe.

The labor that ran the factories and built the railways was recruited in part from American farm areas where people were being displaced by farm machinery, in part from Asia, and in part from Europe. Europe now began to send tides of immigrants from eastern and southern Europe— most of whom were originally poor farmers but who settled in American industrial cities. The money to finance this tremendous expansion of the American economy still came from European financiers for the most part, but the Americans were approaching the day when their expansion could be financed in their own “money market”

30. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) The history of railroads in the United States
- (B) The major United States industrial centers
- (C) Factors that affected industrialization in the United States
- (D) The role of agriculture in the nineteenth century

31. Why does the author mention “a spider's web” in line 9?

- (A) To emphasize the railroad's consumption of oil and coal
- (B) To describe the complex structure of the railway system
- (C) To explain the problems brought on by railway expansion
- (D) To describe the difficulties involved in the distribution of raw materials

32. The word “themselves” in line 12 refers to

- (A) sources
- (B) centers
- (C) railroads
- (D) places

33. According to the passage, what was one effect of the improvement of machine tools?

- (A) Lower manufacturing costs
- (B) Better distribution of goods
- (C) More efficient transportation of natural resources
- (D) A reduction in industrial jobs

34. Which of the following is NOT true of United States farmers in the nineteenth century?

- (A) They lost some jobs because of mechanization
- (B) They were unable to produce sufficient food for urban areas.
- (C) They raised their productivity by using new machinery.



(D) They sold food to European countries

35. The word “ran” in line 21 is closest in meaning to

- (A) operated
- (B) hurried
- (C) constructed
- (D) owned

## ----- READING 5

The concept of obtaining fresh water from iceberg that are towed to populated areas and arid regions of the world was once treated as a joke more appropriate to cartoons than real life. But now it is being considered quite seriously by many nations, especially since scientists have warned that the human race will outgrow its fresh water supply faster than it runs out of food.

Glaciers are a possible source of fresh water that have been overlooked until recently. <A>

Three-quarters of the Earth's fresh water supply is still tied up in glacial ice, a reservoir of untapped fresh water so immense that it could sustain all the rivers of the world for 1,000 years. Floating on the oceans every year are 7,659 trillion metric tons of ice encased in 10,000 icebergs that break away from the polar ice caps, more than ninety percent of them from Antarctica. <B>

Huge glaciers that stretch over the shallow continental shelf give birth to icebergs throughout the year. Icebergs are not like sea ice, which is formed when the sea itself freezes; rather, they are formed entirely on land, breaking off when glaciers spread over the sea. As they drift away from the polar region, icebergs sometimes move mysteriously in a direction opposite to the wind, pulled by subsurface currents. Because they melt more slowly than smaller pieces of ice, icebergs have been known to drift as far north as 35 degrees south of the equator in the Atlantic Ocean. <C>

The difficulty arises in other technical matters, such as the prevention of rapid melting in warmer climates and the funneling of fresh water to shore in great volume. But even if the icebergs lost half of their volume in towing, the water they could provide would be far cheaper than that produced by desalination, or removing salt from water. <D>

36. What is the main topic of the passage?

- (A) The movement of glaciers
- (B) Icebergs as a source of fresh water
- (C) Future water shortages
- (D) The future of the world's rivers

37. The word “arid” in line 1 is closest in meaning to



- (A) anhydrous
- (B) fruitful
- (C) remote
- (D) distant

38. The word "it" in line 3 refers to

- (A) an iceberg that is towed
- (B) obtaining fresh water from icebergs
- (C) the population of arid areas
- (D) real life

39. According to the author, most of the world's fresh water is to be found in

- (A) oceans
- (B) rivers
- (C) glaciers
- (D) reservoirs

40. The word "currents" in line 14 is closest in meaning to

- (A) pulls
- (B) waves
- (C) weather
- (D) flows of water

41. How are icebergs formed?

- (A) They break off from glaciers
- (B) Seawater freezes
- (C) Rivers freeze
- (D) Small pieces of floating ice converge

42. With which of the following ideas would the author be likely to agree?

- (A) Towing icebergs to dry areas is economically possible.
- (B) Desalination of water is the best way to obtain drinking water.
- (C) Using water from icebergs is a very short-term solution to water shortages.
- (D) Icebergs could not be towed very far before they would melt.

43. Which of the following is the best place where the sentence *"To corral them and steer them to parts of the world where they are needed would not be too difficult."* will most properly fit?

- (A) <A>
- (B) <B>
- (C) <C>

(D) <D>

44. The word "that" in the last line refers to

- (A) the volume
- (B) the water
- (C) the iceberg
- (D) the towing

**This is the end of the reading paper.**

**Now please submit your test paper and your answer sheets.**

**Answers**

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

**Answers**

9. D    10. B    11. C    12. B    13. B    14. B    15. C

**Answers**

24. C    25. D    26. A    27. B    28. A    29. A

**Answers**

30. C    31. B    32. C    33. A    34. B    35. A

**Answers**

36. B    37. A    38. B    39. C    40. D    41. A    42. A    43. C    44.  
B

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