

2023 National English Competition for College Students

(Type C—Sample)

(总分：150 分 时间：120 分钟)

Part I Listening Comprehension (30 marks)

Section A (5 marks)

*In this section, you will hear **five** short conversations. Each conversation will be read only **once**. At the end of each conversation, one question will be asked, and you have **fifteen seconds** to read the four choices marked **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **answer sheet** with a single line through the centre.*

1. A. A new type of computer.
C. The general idea of the paper.
 2. A. They stop pouring waste into the ocean.
C. They lower the pollution level by 20%.
 3. A. Ask Bob to take care of them.
C. Leave them in a nearby pet motel.
 4. A. As a birthday gift for Paul.
B. As an alarm to wake Paul up.
C. To make fun of his friend.
D. To recommend the product.
 5. A. He should go shopping more with women.
B. He can buy an Amani shirt to improve his look.
C. He could use a credit card to purchase.
D. He only needs to buy a few stylish clothes.
- B. An expensive laptop.
 - D. A project about helping kids.
 - B. They spent \$50,000 on advertising.
 - D. They printed large amount of brochures.
 - B. Bring with them during vacation.
 - D. Take them back into the woods.



Section B (10 marks)

In this section, you will hear **two** long conversations. Each conversation will be read only **once**. At the end of each conversation, there will be a **one-minute** pause.

Conversation One

Listen to the conversation. Then read the **four** choices marked **A, B, C** or **D**, and decide which is the best answer according to what you hear. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **answer sheet** with a single line through the centre.

6. Who does the man make the appointment for?
A. His daughter. B. Himself. C. His wife. D. The whole family.
7. When is the man's choice on the appointment?
A. 8 am, Friday. B. 2 pm, Friday. C. 2:30 pm, 21st. D. 3:30 pm, 21st.
8. What should they do if they want to switch a doctor?
A. Call Angela on mobile phone. B. Make the changement online.
C. Meet the doctor and tell him. D. Tell any receptionist on duty.
9. Why does the receptionist give the man a mobile number?
A. To call her for another appointment. B. To call out a doctor during the night.
C. To communicate with the doctor directly. D. To stay in touch for future enquiries.
10. What is the price for consultations according to the receptionist?
A. At a prevailing rate. B. It's a standard price.
C. It's free of charge. D. She will make a price list.

Conversation Two

Listen to the conversation, and complete the sentences with **one word** according to what you hear. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

11. The man phones the woman to make sure _____ he can get access to a university computer.
12. The woman introduces that there are 4 computer rooms are open to _____.
13. As the woman says, the location of the Salisbury computer lab is in the _____.
14. Anyone who wants to use a computer must make a _____ for 2 hours' use daily.
15. Anyone who rubs out the other's name to use the computer will be _____ from the computer room for the rest of the academic year.

Section C (5 marks)

In this section, you will hear **five** short news items. Each item will be read only **once**. After each item, there will be a **fifteen-second** pause. During the pause, read the question and the **four** choices marked **A, B, C** and **D**, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **answer sheet** with a single line through the centre.

16. Why do scientists in New Zealand try to reduce gas out of cows?
A. To help the cows in breathing well. B. To keep the balance among many cows.
C. To fight against methane from the cows. D. To protect the cows from certain diseases.

17. What has been revealed in the study?
- A. The tools helped reduce crashes by about 50 percent.
 - B. Some devices are designed to warn drivers much earlier.
 - C. The tool may automatically stop vehicles without warning.
 - D. The research was carried out by the organization and government.
18. Which is true about black holes according to the news?
- A. The black hole that has just been discovered is the most powerful one.
 - B. Both light and sound can escape from the black hole.
 - C. The black holes are believed to be formed by explosive stars.
 - D. They find the black hole is about 1,600 light years from Earth.
19. Why do the scientists, lawyers and government officials meet?
- A. To form an independent health-care group.
 - B. To discuss the issue of deep sea mining.
 - C. To push people to protect deep oceans.
 - D. To talk about technologies about deep sea mining.
20. What can HB4 bring to Argentina?
- A. It can improve the gene of sunflowers.
 - B. It can balance the produce of wheat and sunflowers.
 - C. It can promote the produce of wheat crop.
 - D. It can help the wheat grow well in lower temperatures.



Section D (10 marks)

*In this section, you will hear **one** monologue. The monologue will be read **twice**. After listening, answer the questions using **not more than six words**. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.*

21. What's the subject of the lecture?
22. Why was Queen Elizabeth's ruling a successful time for the English?
23. What did most Elizabethans love to attend?
24. How many tragic works are mentioned in this lecture?
25. What feelings do Shakespeare's characters deal with?

Part II Vocabulary & Grammar (15 marks)

*There are **15** incomplete sentences in this part. For each blank there are **four** choices marked **A, B, C** and **D**. Choose the one that best completes the sentence. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **answer sheet** with a single line through the centre.*

26. Using a full range of colors and all sorts of painting styles, Mahatir has shown there is no end to _____ he will employ to grasp your attention.
- A. knowledge
 - B. creation
 - C. diversity
 - D. universe
27. Pay attention! This paper is not free! I'd appreciate it if everyone would start trying to _____ it.
- A. use
 - B. produce
 - C. move
 - D. conserve

28. Realizing the great loss our company's error caused you, and knowing that money could never really make up for it, we wish to offer you 2 million dollars in _____.
 A. prize B. compensation C. fact D. trouble
29. People were prepared for the fire that broke _____ in the oil reserve tank, but not the _____ shortage of fuel.
 A. down; prompt B. out; subsequent
 C. off; unfortunate D. up; reactive
30. Warning: Poisonous! If accidentally swallowed, _____ vomiting at once and seek medical attention.
 A. reduce B. output C. engage D. induce
31. The tenant must be prepared to decorate the villa _____ the terms of the contract.
 A. in the vicinity of B. in quest of C. in accordance with D. in collaboration with
32. Catherine came back at midnight, _____ which time all the guests had already left.
 A. after B. by C. at D. during
33. If the whole project _____ beforehand, a great deal of time and money would have been lost.
 A. was not planned B. has not been planned
 C. had not been planned D. were not planned
34. I've never been to London, but it's the place _____.
 A. where I'd like to visit B. in which I'd like to visit
 C. I most want to visit D. that I want to visit it most
35. This plant has similar qualities to the previous one, _____ both wind resistant and adapted to the same type of soil.
 A. being B. been C. to be D. having been
36. The staff have been informed that under no circumstances _____ the telephone in the office for personal affairs.
 A. may we use B. we may use C. we could use D. did we use
37. The project _____ by the end of 2023, will expand the city's digital television signal to cover 1,000,000 users.
 A. accomplished B. being accomplished
 C. to be accomplished D. having been accomplished
38. **M:** Can I book two seats on the three o'clock train to Hamburg?
W: Yes, I can reserve two seats for you.
M: Is it Okay if I pay cash when I _____?
W: Yes, but you'll have to collect them at least half an hour before departure.
M: No problem.
 A. pull them off B. dress them up C. put them on D. pick them up
39. **W:** Excuse me! This fish smells strange, _____.
M: It can't be, madam, it was fresh this morning.
W: Well, I'm not going to eat it, so please take it away.
M: Of course, madam.
W: And I hope you're not going to charge me for it.

M: Certainly not, madam.

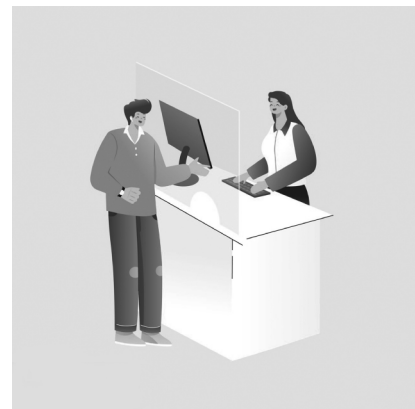
- A. it may be out B. it might be away C. it should be down D. it must be off

40. **M:** I don't like to complain, but I bought this camera last week and it's stopped working.

W: Hum—yes, it's faulty. Do you have your receipt? We can either exchange the camera or offer you a credit note. You can use it for anything in the shop.

M: No, _____.

- A. I'd rather have a refund
B. I'd like a new camera
C. there must be a discount
D. I must be offered something free



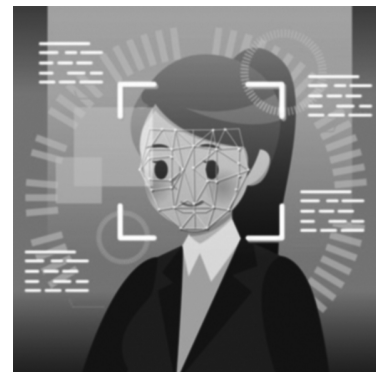
Part III Cloze (10 marks)

Section A (5 marks)

Read the following passage and fill in the blanks with the correct forms of 5 words or phrases out of the 7 given in the box. Remember to write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

invade, carry out, turn off, appear, grow, inform, accurate

We recognize people by their faces, or photos, which are typically unique to individuals. However, this type of identification can be faulty. People's 41. _____ changes, and we do not tend to scrutinize photos very closely. Today, biometric technology is being developed to perfect the process of facial identification. Face recognition technology can scan the face for certain features and measure the distances between different parts of the face. These things do not change, so 42. _____ a beard or wearing glasses will not fool the scanner. Since it is very difficult to mimic another person's face, this type of identification is quite reliable.



Facial recognition presents a risk of 43. _____ of people's privacy. Face scanners can be placed in public places, and people's images can be scanned without their knowledge. This allows their movements to be tracked and can also give criminals 44. _____ that will help them victimize people.

On the other hand, security can be improved by using face scanners in public places. For example, at a large sporting event, cameras can be used to monitor the crowds, secretly capturing images of individuals. These images can then be compared to photos of known terrorists. If a match comes up, the terrorist can be located and removed from the premises before he or she can do any harm. One problem with this idea is that the 45. _____ of face scanners diminishes when they are tracking people in large crowds. Because the people aren't posing, the angle may be off. This increases the chances of false positives, putting people's rights in jeopardy.

Section B (5 marks)

Read the following passage and fill in each blank with **one** word in one of the following **three** ways: according to the context, by using the correct form of the given word, or by using the given letter(s) of the word. Remember to write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

If you yearn for smooth skin that glows with youth, the chances are that at some point you will have heard the exhortation to drink lots of water in order to flush out those evil toxins and keep your skin 46. hea_____.

The exact amount people suggest varies. US-based advice tends to recommend eight glasses a day, while in hotter climates people are advised to drink more to compensate for higher rates of 47. _____(sweat). But regardless of the exact volume of water suggested, the principle behind the advice remains the same—taking extra water on board will keep your skin hydrated.

This is such a common idea you might be surprised at the lack of evidence to back this up. You might expect there to be countless studies 48. _____ people are separated into two groups, one assigned to sip water all day, the other to drink a normal amount. Then the smoothness of the skin could be assessed a month or so later to establish whether sipping more led to smoother skin.



In fact such studies are rare, partly because water can't be patented, so it is hard to find anyone to fund such research when there will be no new medication or cosmetic to sell that could repay the costs. A review in Israel found just one study looking at the effect of long-term water intake on the skin. But the results were 49. con_____. After four weeks, the group who drank extra mineral water showed a decrease in skin density, which some believe suggests the skin is retaining more moisture, while those who drank tap water showed an increase in skin density. But regardless of the type of water they drank, it made 50. _____ difference to their wrinkles or to the smoothness of their skin.

Part IV Reading Comprehension (30 marks)

There are **three** passages in this part. Each passage is followed by several questions. Respond to the questions using the information from the passage. Remember to write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

Section A (10 marks)

Questions 51—55 are based on the following passage.

Alaska is disappearing slowly but surely. Since the 1950s, it is estimated that as much as 15 percent of Alaska's area has disappeared. 51. _____

One reason for Alaska's gradual disappearance is the melting of its glaciers. According to one geologist at the US Geological Survey, about 98 percent of Alaska's glaciers are either unmoving or diminishing. 52. _____ Since the 1960s, the average year-round temperature has increased by 5°F. Furthermore, the average winter temperature has increased by 8°F. Presently, an estimated 24 cubic miles of ice is disappearing from Alaskan glaciers every year. It may be even more in the near future, as some scientists predict that the average world temperature could go up 2.5 to 10°F by the year 2100.

53. _____ Much of the land in Alaska was permanently frozen, or frozen for most of the year, thus

maintaining its integrity. Now, the thawing permafrost is causing a number of problems on land. Roads and utility poles are collapsing. Also, the hard permafrost which originally prevented beaches from eroding during violent storms is now melting. Affected villages are forced to relocate. For villages on small low islands, one terrible storm could wipe out the entire community.



The melting permafrost and increasing temperature are also having a negative impact on the forests of Alaska. 54. _____ The spruce-bark beetle, for example, is increasing in numbers as a result of global warming. It usually takes about two years for these beetles to grow and reproduce in very cold weather. However, due to the increase in temperatures, spruce-bark beetles are damaging as many trees in one year as they previously damaged in two. At this rate, Alaska's forest won't survive the turn of the century.

Some scientists believe that human activity is linked to a global increase in weather temperature. Whether the rising temperatures are caused by human activity or natural changes, the fact remains that Alaska is warming. Some others argue that global warming may be a normal trend on the Earth's temperature chart. One theory argues that we are near the end of a so-called "Little Ice Age", and the retreat of the glaciers is a natural result of this cycle. 55. _____ Horribly, this could be a preview of what will happen to the rest of the world in the next century.

Questions 51—55

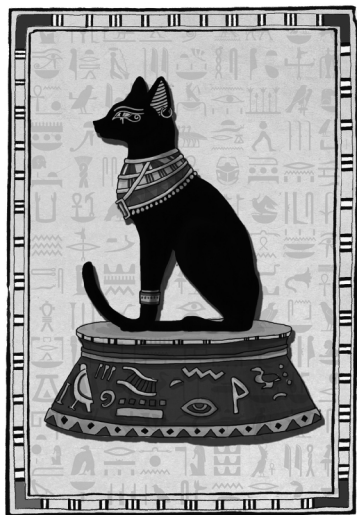
Choose from the sentences A—G the one which best fits each gap of 51—55. There are **two extra** sentences which you do not need to use.

- A. As the permafrost under the forests melts, insects that normally don't turn up until the warmer seasons are appearing sooner.
- B. Where does the water you use come from?
- C. But how can a whole state be disappearing?
- D. Whether natural or produced by humans, there is little hope for the immediate future of glaciers as we know them.
- E. Another problem contributing to Alaska's gradual disappearance is its thawing permafrost.
- F. Unless there are some changes in the current rate of global warming, the glaciers of our world are essentially doomed.
- G. This diminishing seems mainly due to the increase in global temperatures.

Section B (10 marks)

Questions 56—60 are based on the following passage.

It seems that there is middle ground when it comes to cats. People either love them or hate them. These feelings are not new either. All through history, cats have been worshiped or hated. A study of ancient writings and evidence found in tombs indicates that for past 5,000 years, cats have been kept as pets in China, Arabia, Egypt, and India. However, this isn't very long compared to dogs, which have been domesticated for 50,000 years. Still, while the



period in which cats have been domesticated may be quite short, it has definitely had its high and low points.

Cats were at their positions of domesticated life in ancient Egypt. There were more cats living in Egypt during the time of the pharaohs than any other place in the world since that time. This high number of cats was probably due to the laws protecting them as holy animals. If anyone was caught killing a cat, the person could be put to death. Families in Egypt also mourned the death of a cat and had the body of the dead cat wrapped in cloth before it was finally laid to rest. This respect for cats carried over to the Roman Empire where cats were the only animals allowed into temples. This fact was probably because of the ability of cats to keep the temples free of mice and rats.

With the coming of the Dark Ages in Europe, the place of cats in society took a turn for the worse. Because they were associated so closely with the “old religions” of Egypt and the Roman Empire, Christians began to associate cats with pagan beliefs. Cats had a reputation as helpers of witches. When a person was accused of being a witch, a cat would often be put on trial with the person. The cat would be tortured to try and make the person tell the truth, and usually the cat and the person would end up being burned in a bonfire or drowned. Bonfires of collected cats were not uncommon during this time.

The days of hunting witches have ended, but other myths about cats still hold out. For a while, people in some places used to bury live cats under new buildings for good luck. As well, many people today continued to believe that black cats bring bad luck. If a black cat walks in front of a person, that person must take extra care in the near future to watch out for dangerous situations. Regardless of superstition, cats remain a popular pet today. Some cat experts believe that a cat can never truly be domesticated because it may turn wild and run away at any time. However, this claim has not put people off keeping cats in their homes. A third of homes in the United States have cats, and one out of every three of these homes keeps both a dog and a cat. Especially in large cities, many people in small apartments have found that cats make much better pets than dogs.

Questions 56—60

Answer the following questions briefly according to the passage.

56. Which animal has been domesticated the longest according to the passage?
57. Why were there most cats living in ancient Egypt during the time of pharaohs?
58. What ability of cats was respected in Egypt and Roman Empire?
59. When was the lowest point in the history of cats?
60. What percentage of people in the United States keeps both a cat and a dog?

Section C (10 marks)

Questions 61 to 65 are based on the following passage.

When you open the business section of any newspaper at the end of the year, all the reports seem to be about results for the fiscal year. But just like a school year or lunar year, the fiscal year is a little different from the regular calendar year.

A fiscal year is a 12-month period that records the annual financial reports for businesses, organisations and governments. These records give shareholders and analysts information on how well the businesses are doing. They are also necessary because they help investors and other companies prepare for the future. All this preparation helps the economy continue to run smoothly.

Starbucks Corp. released the record of its fourth fiscal quarter and the full fiscal year, which ended Oct. 1, on Nov. 16. “The record results we reported today for the fourth quarter and the full fiscal year are a testament to the overall health and strength of our global business,” commented Troy Alstead. “The momentum we have built throughout the year continued in the fourth quarter, with the strength of same store sales growth demonstrating that our product innovation and overall store experience are resonating extremely well with our customers. As a result of the strong finish to fiscal 2011, Starbucks entered the new fiscal year well positioned to continue pursuing significant profitable growth opportunities.”

The start date of the fiscal year is different in different businesses and countries. So, for example, the U.S. government begins its fiscal year Oct. 1 and the Australian government begins its July 1. Thailand starts its fiscal year in September. The United Kingdom and India have chosen a different fiscal-year system. In these countries, the fiscal year varies from April to March. In China, the fiscal year starts Jan. 1 and ends Dec. 31. France, Italy, Germany, Russia use the same fiscal year as China.

Fiscal years don’t always start from January and end in December, however. When a business opens, it decides what month will start its fiscal year. In fact, many businesses don’t choose to follow the regular calendar year for their fiscal year because December is usually a very busy time. In the United Kingdom, many companies have continued to use the government fiscal year, which expires March 31, since they privatized. Nonetheless, the fiscal year and calendar year are the same in about over 60 percent of companies in the United States and the majority of businesses in England.

In each fiscal year there are four quarters. Each is three months long and is often called a fiscal quarter. Businesses usually report results for each fiscal quarter as well as annual results for their fiscal year.

Questions 61—65

Complete the summary below with information from the passage, using **not more than three words** for each blank.

A fiscal year is a 12-month period used for calculating 61. _____ annually in businesses and other organisations. The reports are made for business people to understand how well they are doing and to prepare for the future. Fiscal years can follow the calendar year, but more often than not, they 62. _____ between countries or companies. The U.S. government begins its fiscal year in October while the Chinese government starts its 63. _____. In the U.S. and the U.K., 64. _____ of businesses use the same fiscal calendar as the calendar year. However, some businesses choose to start 65. _____ month.



Part V Translation (15 marks)

Section A (5 marks)

Translate the following paragraph into Chinese. Remember to write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

66. Opera is an art that brings music, singing, and drama together on stage. The first operas were performed in Italy in the early 1600s. These operas were based on ancient Greek myths and accompanied by simple melodies. The early composers of opera called their work “drama through music” because they felt the music was the key to expressing an idea or emotion. Although the first operas were performed for the aristocracy, by the 1700s many operas were being performed for the public.



Section B (10 marks)

Translate the following paragraph into English. Remember to write the answer on the **answer sheet**.

67. 1,400 多年前,中国人发明了雕版印刷(block printing)。最初人们把字刻在木头上,然后加墨染印。雕版印刷很耗费时间、人力和材料。而且印错的字难以修正。这些缺点随着活字印刷(movable type printing)的发明得到了克服,印刷的速度也随之大大加快,质量也得到了改善。发明活字印刷的人是北宋的毕昇。虽然他的发明对于今天的凸版印刷(letterpress printing)而言十分简单,但已经具备了现代印刷术的主要特征。因此,毕昇对于印刷术的贡献怎样说都不过分。



Part VI IQ Test (10 marks)

There are **five** IQ Test questions in this part. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

68. What does the italicized phrase mean in Chinese?

- Well, we'd better *put our heads together* right now so that we don't have to plan everything at the last minute!
- OK, then, let's sort out the details.

69. What makes opening the piano so hard?



70. Therapy is to cure as treatment is to _____.

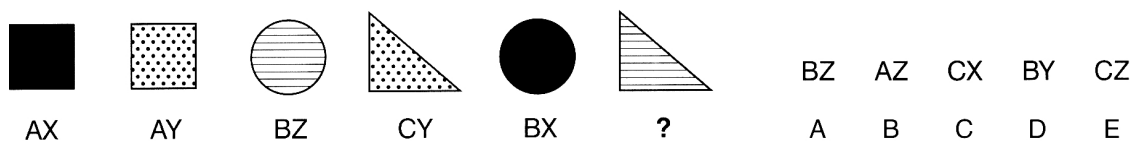
- A. heal B. regiment C. practitioner D. patient E. hospital

71. Fill in the brackets on the second line using the letters outside the brackets.

ET (JUPITER) PU

TA (R_ I _E) DA

72. Which code matches the shape given below?



Part VII Error Correction (10 marks)

There are 10 errors altogether in the following passage. Each indicated line contains **a maximum of one** error. Correct the passage in the following ways: for a wrong word, underline the wrong word and write the correct one in the blank; for a missing word, mark the position of the missing word with the sign “^” and write the word you believe to be missing in the blank; for an unnecessary word, cross the unnecessary word with the sign “\” and put the word with the sign in the blank. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

For example:

One of my favourite writers <u>are</u> Charlotte Brontë. She was born in the early	<u>is</u>
nineteenth century when women had far fewer opportunities ^ they have now.	<u>than</u>
She lived in a small village in Yorkshire and she took great pleasure in walking	
on the moors where near her home.	<u>where</u>

England is in north-west Europe and is the largest country in the UK.

(The UK also includes Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.) The

population of England is about 53 millions. The capital city is London 73. _____

and other major cities include Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and

Manchester. The currency is in the pound sterling. England is only 34 km 74. _____

from France and is linked a tunnel under the English Channel. 75. _____

Inside the metropolitan areas, England is mostly agricultural land, 76. _____

hills and mountains. The climate is temperate with mild winter and 77. _____

warm summers.

English is an official language of England. England is a cosmopolitan, 78. _____

multicultural country with a lot of immigration, particularly Indian 79. _____

sub-continent. Other languages spoken in England include of Punjabi, 80. _____

Urdu, Bengali and Poland. The national sport of England is football. 81. _____

Other popular sports include Rugby and cricket.

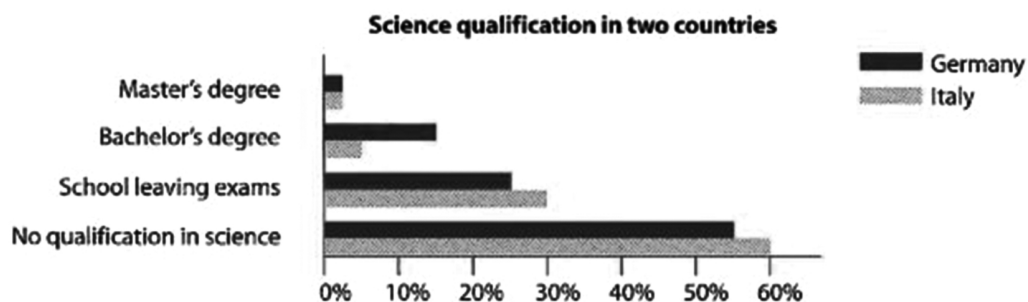
England is famous for many things, include its royal family, London 82. _____

landmarks such as Big Ben, and the writer William Shakespeare.

Part VIII Writing (30 marks)

Section A (10 marks)

83. Write a **120-word** report on the chart below by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. *Write the report on the answer sheet.*



Section B (20 marks)

84. There is a discussion about how much freedom parents should allow young people to have nowadays. You are asked to write a composition giving your own views on the following statement:

Young people are given too much freedom nowadays by their parents.



*Write a **180-word** essay to express your opinions. Write the essay on the answer sheet.*