

STAR EDUCATION
THI THỬ TUYỂN SINH 10
PHỔ THÔNG NĂNG KHIẾU

ĐỀ CHÍNH THỨC

Môn thi: TIẾNG ANH (chuyên)

Ngày thi: 15/03/2026

Thời gian làm bài: 150 phút, không kể thời gian phát đề

PART 1. LANGUAGE USE (4.00 pts) — Questions 1–80

Questions 1–40 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY (2.00 pts)

Choose the answer (A, B, C, or D) which fits best. Mark your answers on the Answer Sheet.

1. The director was showing how the merger had _____ during the urgent meeting with the shareholders.
 A. come across B. come about C. come out D. come in
2. This artist used only recycled materials, _____ the unique texture of the sculpture.
 A. therefore B. hence C. so D. then
3. When I was little, I used to follow my dad everywhere and constantly _____ his feet while he was trying to work.
 A. get under B. step over C. run past D. trip on
4. The faster the global population continues to grow, _____ the need for sustainable and renewable energy.
 A. the more urgently it becomes C. the more urgent it is
 B. the more urgent D. the more urgent is it
5. After making that offensive joke during the live TV interview, the politician has probably _____.
 A. cooked up a story C. cooked his goose
 B. cooked the books D. cooked it to perfection
6. Recent scientific findings show that biological factors play a major role in OCD, contradicting earlier theories. As a result, those early conclusions have been _____ by new evidence.
 A. unverified B. unconfirmed C. invalidated D. disregarded
7. There is so much corruption in the industry that the workers didn't even _____ at the news that the senior manager had been embezzling funds for years.
 A. blink B. bring C. click D. sing
8. The nutritionist recommended _____ more leafy greens into her diet.
 A. for her to incorporate C. her for the incorporation of
 B. she incorporate D. her that she should incorporate
9. Whenever I see someone mistreating animals, I get hot under the _____.
 A. weather B. belt C. skin D. collar
10. _____, Cole checked his phone for any missed calls.
 A. With his finished assignment C. When his assignment had finished
 B. By having his assignment finished D. His assignment finished
11. The urgent delivery of food and medical supplies was _____ at the border due to an unexpected discrepancy.
 A. held up B. brought up C. taken up D. gone up
12. A(n) _____ part of her presentation was the vivid case study that illustrated the project's real-world impact.
 A. prominent B. eminent C. dominant D. imminent
13. I first met Morgan just an hour ago, but he's talking to me as if we _____ best friends since childhood.
 A. have been B. are C. were D. had been
14. It's great that my documents were still there; they really _____ when I had to write the annual analysis.
 A. came to light B. came to terms C. came in handy D. came to an end

15. The _____ little girl kept opening drawers and cupboards, eager to discover what was inside.
 A. acquisitive B. acquitted C. inquisitive D. exquisite
16. What a rip-off! I can't believe the gym charges a premium for _____.
 A. such poorly-maintained equipment C. so poorly-maintained an equipment
 B. such a poorly-maintained equipment D. so poorly-maintained equipment
17. After a decade of consistent high performance, she decided to _____ a promotion to Senior Project Executive.
 A. put up with B. put out for C. put in for D. put down for
18. The study focuses mainly on the _____ value of language, examining how words point to objects and ideas in the real world.
 A. referential B. differential C. inferential D. preferential
19. We were shocked when the press got _____ of the confidential agreement before it was officially announced.
 A. wind B. breeze C. voice D. ear
20. We had to increase the budget after the price of raw materials skyrocketed; _____.
 A. it couldn't help C. it couldn't be helped
 B. we had to help D. we couldn't be helped
21. After the sudden closure of the furniture factory, hundreds of workers found themselves _____.
 A. on the dole C. on the spur of the moment
 B. on the back D. joined the dole
22. The tailor showed me two suits, _____ from the finest silk available in the city.
 A. each cut B. both of them were cut C. one of which being cut D. both had been cut
23. Due to so many unexpected guests arriving at the gallery opening, there was a big concern that there wouldn't be enough refreshments to _____.
 A. go off B. go round C. go under D. go without
24. When the negotiations reached a deadlock, the young lawyer decided to _____ the nettle and propose a bold compromise.
 A. confront B. take C. tackle D. grasp
25. The success of this restaurant is not _____ as its location as people mostly go there to admire the scenery.
 A. very much for its food C. so much due to its food
 B. only about the food D. nothing like because of its food
26. It was quite insensitive of the manager to _____ the employees' concerns in relation to workplace safety during the conference.
 A. make head or tail of B. make light of C. make a meal of D. make do with
27. It's significant to reorder the monthly reports, but I found it hard to manage to _____ it due to tight deadlines.
 A. get away with B. get on with C. get round to D. get through to
28. She ended up with _____ on her face when the surprise party turned out to be for someone else.
 A. salt B. sugar C. egg D. tomatoes
29. Endowed with oils on the surface of their eyes which act as colour filters, herons can _____ the tiniest movements in the murky surface of the water.
 A. dismiss B. disclose C. discharge D. discern
30. The administrator was asked to _____ the safety breach that took place on the construction site under his watch.
 A. answer for B. make up in C. take account by D. act up
31. "Where's Harry?" – "He left his wallet in _____ near the train station, so he had _____ to fetch it!"
 A. some cafés – no choice but C. some cafés – no other choice than
 B. some café – no choice rather than D. some café – no choice other than
32. The enormous ship is planned to _____ several important ports, before returning to the original one.
 A. call in B. call at C. bring up D. act on

33. The senior executives who were _____ admitted that the business was on the verge of bankruptcy.
 A. in the dark B. in the red C. in the loop D. in the know
34. Although there has been a multi-state manhunt involving federal agencies, the dangerous criminal who escaped from jail remains _____.
 A. at large B. at a loss C. at sea D. at bay
35. When criticized for his decision, the coach simply dug his _____ in and refused to make any changes.
 A. toes B. heels C. feet D. shoes
36. As soon as the buffet was opened, the hungry guests _____ the food with the desperation of those who hadn't eaten all day.
 A. fell for B. fell on C. fell in D. fell out
37. She couldn't join us for dinner because she was up to _____ in work preparing for the final exams.
 A. her head B. her sleeve C. her eyes D. her shoulders
38. The police were criticized for simply _____ while the protesters clashed, rather than intervening to prevent the escalation.
 A. looking in B. looking over C. looking on D. looking up
39. The team members were _____ throughout the project, yet, _____, they delivered the final product on time and exceeded everyone's expectations.
 A. at odds and ends – against the odds C. against the odds – over the odds
 B. at odds – against the odds D. at odds – over the odds
40. Critics argued that the director's autobiography was a bit too nostalgic, viewing his early struggles through _____ glasses.
 A. pink-colored B. rose-colored C. pink-hued D. rose-shaded

Questions 41–60

GUIDED CLOZE TEST (1.00 pts)

Choose the answer (A, B, C, or D) which fits best. Mark your answers on the Answer Sheet.

Guided Cloze 1

Human societies have long been characterized by patterns of cooperation and collective survival. Anthropological research suggests that people tend to (41) _____ together in groups in order to ensure mutual protection and support, (42) _____ that they possess a (43) _____ awareness that the survival of the group is closely linked to the survival of each individual member.

Some evolutionary anthropologists estimate that early human communities typically consisted of small groups of about 20–50 individuals, a size considered optimal for cooperation and resource sharing. In prehistoric environments, early humans frequently collaborated to secure food and protect themselves from potential threats. In particular, they needed to defend themselves against (44) _____ of dangerous animals that could unexpectedly turn (45) _____ them. Archaeological evidence further indicates that these early populations often adopted a nomadic lifestyle, living in (46) _____ and depending largely on seasonal sources of wild plants and animals. When food resources became scarce or environmental conditions deteriorated, these hunter-gatherer groups tended to urgently (47) _____ to more favorable regions. However, the development of agriculture marked a significant turning point in human history. Humans were finally able to (48) _____ away with their nomadic way of life and gradually establish permanent settlements. Within these emerging communities, people (49) _____ crops for food and began raising (50) _____ of livestock as a stable source of sustenance.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 41. A. form | B. hold | C. collect | D. band |
| 42. A. so much so | B. so as to | C. so be it | D. so much for |
| 43. A. conscience | B. sensibility | C. conscious | D. sensible |
| 44. A. packs | B. clans | C. squads | D. throngs |
| 45. A. on | B. ahead | C. into | D. in |
| 46. A. factions | B. tribes | C. races | D. unions |
| 47. A. migrate | B. drift | C. emigrate | D. evacuate |

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 48. A. keep | B. run | C. do | D. get |
| 49. A. managed | B. harvested | C. nourished | D. yielded |
| 50. A. hordes | B. crowds | C. masses | D. herds |

Guided Cloze 2

Recent studies suggest that we are living in a (51) _____ time due to the erratic climate patterns and growing environmental pressures. Climate change, pollution, and the depletion of natural resources are widely recognized as major ecosystem pressures (52) _____ a long-term threat to both nature and human life. According to IPCC, global temperatures have already increased by about 1.1°C since the late nineteenth century, contributing to more frequent extreme weather events. In (53) _____ to these concerns, governments have strengthened environmental regulations and are rarely (54) _____ with companies that violate them. Policymakers also attempt to (55) _____ preference to businesses that adopt sustainable practices. Nevertheless, there remain (56) _____ environmental issues to address, while the public's attitude toward environmental initiatives such as recycling campaigns is sometimes considered (57) _____. Greta Thunberg once stated, “Our house is on fire,” emphasizing the urgency of addressing climate change. Moreover, recent storms have (58) _____ havoc on forests and urban areas, further highlighting the severity of environmental change. Authorities have therefore advised people to conserve water, (59) _____ the unusually low rainfall and increasing drought.

These measures are also important for protecting human health, as environmental protection helps societies (60) _____ serious diseases. Clean water and a stable environment are essential for public health and serve as a foundation for sustainable population development.

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|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 51. A. temporary | B. contemporary | C. turbulent | D. rapid |
| 52. A. like posing | B. likely posing | C. which likely poses | D. to likely pose |
| 53. A. resistance | B. retort | C. retaliation | D. response |
| 54. A. formal | B. disciplined | C. lenient | D. adverse |
| 55. A. lend | B. give | C. deliver | D. send |
| 56. A. a large many | B. quite many | C. a great many | D. quite a lot |
| 57. A. pedestrian | B. methodical | C. meritorious | D. lackadaisical |
| 58. A. made | B. executed | C. wreaked | D. exercised |
| 59. A. in view of | B. with a view to | C. regardless of | D. for fear that |
| 60. A. push off | B. put off | C. ward off | D. brush off |

Questions 61–80 OPEN CLOZE TEST (1.00 pts)

Complete each blank with ONE most suitable word. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

Open Cloze 1

Is it destiny?

One’s individual horoscope, also known as a natal chart, is fundamentally predicated (61) _____ and influenced by the positions of the planets at the exact time of one’s emergence (62) _____ the world. An astrologer, aided by mathematical and astrological tables, (63) _____ use of personal statistics – such as the precise time and place of (64) _____ – to chart what is (65) _____ to as one’s horoscope. By studying these positional relationships, a practising astrologer can supposedly interpret one’s personality traits and provide pertinent future insights.

Each planet on a personalised star chart signifies a particular field of energy representative of a certain aspect of life. Exactly (66) _____ strong or weak this energy is considered depends on the interplanetary positioning. A numerical value is assigned to each energy field and (67) _____ sum total supposedly represents one’s life potential. On the basis of this theory, astrologers believe that one can chart the course of one's life. However, even if everything appears mapped out, individuals can still control their destiny. A good astrologer’s job (68) _____ to assist an individual (69) _____ recognising which aspects of their life might prove troublesome and what action to take (70) _____ problems arise because of a weak energy field. At the same time, they can also advise on how to exploit strong energy fields to achieve happiness and prosperity.

Open Cloze 2

The humanitarian boundaries of war

The ICRC Casebook is a cornerstone of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), providing a framework that seeks to preserve human dignity during armed conflict. Under IHL, the sole legitimate aim of war – regardless of its causes – is weakening the enemy’s military potential. A defending state needs only to reduce the aggressor’s military strength (71) _____ to preserve its independence, while an aggressor merely seeks to impose its political will.

Crucially, this legal paradigm draws a clear line around (72) _____ is permissible on the battlefield. Total destruction of enemy forces is unnecessary to win a war; capturing them or forcing their surrender will achieve that aim. The principles of distinction and proportionality dictate that under (73) _____ circumstances should civilians or their livelihoods be targeted; lawful targeting is limited to combatants. Similarly, it is not necessary to lay (74) _____ to an entire country; occupying territory to (75) _____ the upper hand militarily. The deliberate destruction of civilian infrastructure is strictly prohibited, (76) _____ only objects directly supporting military resistance considered legitimate targets.

The ICRC Casebook underscores that, even in war's darkest hours, the preservation of humanity must (77) _____ precedence. The fundamental rights of non-combatants must remain protected, (78) _____ preventing conflicts from degenerating into unmitigated barbarism. These legal constraints clarify that the rules governing warfare are not (79) _____ in stone, but they do set firm outer limits on military necessity. Ultimately, the law acts as a vital shield, ensuring that the drive (80) _____ achieve military victory never eclipses the value of human life.

PART 2. READING (2.50 pts) — Questions 81–105

Passage 1

For questions 81–88, read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. Mark your answers on the Answer Sheet.

Big brain to believe big lies

- A. In the summer of 1917, two young English schoolgirls from the village of Cottingley claimed to have captured photographs of fairies dancing by a stream. They presented images that soon captivated the brilliant mind behind Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, who became convinced they were real. A staunch spiritualist, Doyle shrugged off skeptics who pointed out the figures were mere cardboard cutouts from a children’s book, held in place by visible hatpins. He argued that the pins were umbilical cords, and the fairies existed via electromagnetic vibrations invisible to humans. As science journalist David Robson explains in *The Intelligence Trap*, this wasn’t a momentary lapse. Intelligence, it turns out, does not automatically protect us from misinformation.
- B. This paradox is central to understanding why the brightest among us fall for nonsense. Robson argues that smart people often use their cognitive prowess “opportunistically”: to protect beliefs tied to their identities rather than pursue truth. Psychologist Ray Hyman of the University of Oregon summed it up: “Doyle used his intelligence and cleverness to dismiss all counter-arguments...He was able to use his smartness to outsmart himself.” This is called “motivated reasoning” – a concept referring to the mix of preserving emotions and doing mental tricks. Intelligence equips us to rationalize errors more skillfully, making falsehoods harder to change. As Robson notes, an intelligent person who encounters facts contradicting their views may become “more ignorant” than before, so their defenses will only be strengthened.
- C. Research has confirmed this bias. In the 1970s and 1980s, Harvard’s David Perkins asked students to weigh controversial issues, such as whether nuclear disarmament would reduce war risk. Rational thinkers should weigh both sides, but Perkins found that higher-IQ participants did not explore opposing views more thoroughly; they simply built more sophisticated cases for their own opinions – a phenomenon Perkins termed “myside bias.” Even law students, who are trained to expect counter-arguments, showed the same problem. “Thinking about the other side is a perfect example of good reasoning,” Perkins later reflected, yet it eluded the intelligent.

- D. Beyond raw intellect, misinformation also takes advantage of other psychological vulnerabilities that make falsehoods feel intuitively true. Robson highlights that false claims seem believable and bypass reflection when they are “fluent” – easy to process and familiar. Adding a brain scan to a fake health tip, for instance, really boosts credibility. Repetition is even more potent: hearing an absurd idea repeatedly makes it stick as truth. Strong emotions such as fear, anger, and disgust make fake news “stickier,” as a 2025 study in *Information Systems Frontiers* found. Some people are “cognitive misers,” possessing brainpower but often rely on quick gut instincts instead of careful analysis. This style of thinking is commonly exposed by questions such as “If five machines make five widgets in five minutes, how long for 100 machines to make 100?” The intuitive (wrong) answer is 100, the correct analytical one is five. Low scorers on this test are more likely to believe in conspiracies. High scorers tend to think more clearly, but only if their identity is not involved. In short, fake news is engineered to slip past our logic by preying on fluency and feelings, not facts.
- E. Social media also turns these personal biases into viral epidemics. To explain why fake news thrives in uncertain times like the COVID-19 pandemic, the study introduced a model that focuses on content’s veracity (how true it is), emotional appeal (how it makes people feel), and relevance (how closely it connects to their life). Analyzing over 10,000 tweets, they found that content spreads when it offers emotional appeal instead of accuracy, and that people tend to forgive lies if the story soothes anxiety or fuels anger. The Overton Window, a concept from political science, helps explain this: ideas gain acceptance if they gently push the limits of what’s deemed socially tolerable, gradually normalizing extremes. Algorithms make it worse by favoring content that sparks negative feelings, building echo chambers that bind and isolate online communities with similar views, and amplifying a small minority of ‘superspreaders’ who originate most misinformation.
- F. Unlike old media with fact-checkers, social platforms allow fast, unfiltered sharing and thus turn misinformation into a digital wildfire. People don’t always need to believe misinformation to propagate it. Behavioral research shows online sharing often serves social ends: to signal loyalty to a group, mock opponents, or earn likes and approval. In echo chambers, a false claim about the “other side” might go viral not for its veracity but for tribal reasons. This separation of belief from action shows misinformation as a social performance, not just a thinking mistake.
- G. Countering this requires deliberate strategies. Teaching people about manipulation tactics beforehand has proven effective. Media literacy education, starting in kindergarten as in Finland, helps spot emotional hooks. Ultimately, the long-term fix starts with personal habits: intellectual humility (admitting you could be wrong), curiosity about why others believe what they do, and pausing to think carefully before sharing.

Questions 81–85

Passage 1 has seven paragraphs A–G.

Which paragraph contains the following information? You may use any letter more than once.

- 81. people who create the majority of false claims
- 82. extra images making claims more convincing
- 83. rejection of opposing explanations by outsiders
- 84. interest in understanding other viewpoints
- 85. a concept describing preference for one’s own view

Questions 86–88

Complete each sentence with the correct ending from the list A–G below.

- 86. Careful thinking habits are encouraged by educators because ...
- 87. Skilled arguments produced by smart defenders seem convincing, but ...
- 88. Many users who spread news only for social purposes probably know that ...

- A. they teach students to trust their first instinct.
- B. they slow down impulsive sharing.
- C. they do not fully understand the content they are repeating.
- D. they fail to change the supporter’s belief.
- E. they will succeed if the story is truly genuine.
- F. they can support mistaken conclusions.
- G. they become an example of how intelligence can work out facts.

Passage 2

For questions 89–98, read the passage below and answer the following questions.

Overcoming the Threshold

Architects are struggling in today’s cultural climate, facing a threefold challenge: a public that misunderstands their role, indifferent developers, and overbearing councils that micromanage their work. According to sources within the profession, the situation is much worse when architects work on public buildings, as architects FIMT and Archimedia discovered with their Auckland Gallery makeover, where a vast number of external pressures threatened the project, and with so many bureaucratic difficulties it looked doomed to fail.

The major challenge of the gallery renovation project was that it involved two parts. The first was to restore the heritage building, dating back to 1888, which contained a network of small spaces, refurbished so often it contained 17 different floor heights. The second was to deliver a new extension that would not only double floor and exhibition space but also attract new patrons, a total necessity. While the old building’s circulation was off-putting, so was something intangible yet just as powerful: its atmosphere. For many, Auckland Art Gallery was just an old building that served a limited range of patrons with highbrow interests, missing its chance to engage with new audiences.

A 2003 survey of young people’s impressions of the gallery confirmed this opinion, sounding more like references to an abandoned building. For the survey authors, “threshold fear”—where certain groups are intimidated from entering certain spaces by their off-putting atmosphere—was the institution’s undoing, something no architect wants anything to do with. To many young people, the Auckland Art Gallery seemed “undemocratic, dusty” and “cold,” embodying “threshold fear.” Remarkably, 16% did not even know its location despite standing outside it. At the same time, New Zealand’s national museum in Wellington was successfully attracting wider audiences through modern branding, interactive exhibits, and temporary events, highlighting how out of touch the gallery had become.

The decision to evolve the gallery was actually made in 2000, although it took eight years for building to commence, as the architects fought off heritage committees and conservationists trying to stop them. The architects faced not only a sceptical public but also disputes over protected timber and the surrounding parkland. Approval from the Environment Court took three years, during which costs escalated, funding diminished, and the new wing was entirely redesigned. Controversy continued over the use of culturally significant kauri timber. Ultimately, the architects incorporated kauri into a sweeping canopy supported by steel columns clad in the same material. The structure filters light into the forecourt and echoes the pohutukawa trees of Albert Park, a site of early Māori settlement and cultural importance.

Another success is the refurbishment of the heritage building, especially the Mackelvie Gallery, in disrepair after its characteristic early twentieth-century Edwardian decoration had been stripped out or walled away in previous renovations. Remarkably, the Mackelvie space has been reconstructed from two old photos, although the problem of multiple floor levels was so serious that scaffolding had to be erected at the highest level, with work progressing downwards—the reverse of normal practice. When it was over, a fascinating detail was retained: the lowest level visible under glass embedded in the new floor, the building itself as artwork, while elsewhere columns from the old gallery have been exposed in the walls of the new wing.

The connection is strengthened by sculptures from Maori artist Arnold Wilson decorating the columns, while fellow artist Bernard Makoare was a consultant, ensuring the gallery emphasized Maori beliefs. Still, that didn’t stop the conservationist Stephen King from accusing the architects of ‘throwing’ kauri at a ‘mediocre building’ and of misappropriating the “mana” (spiritual energy) of the precious material (which is almost extinct: harvesting of both petrified and swamp kauri has been likened to a gold rush). However, the kauri that was used here was from the forest floor, and King’s misconceptions sum up the prejudice that surrounded the project.

Objections also came from the Auckland Regional Council, worrying about the extension’s impact on Albert Park, yet the project's relationship with parkland is one of the most successful outcomes. Impact is not only minimal, but it improves the park’s social function. The extension’s enormous glass atrium opens up the building by directing the gaze from street level to the parkland beyond, while inside, the new art space is fronted along the east by a continuous glass wall incorporating the park into the gallery. The glass becomes a “screen” for viewing the outside world and makes the art accessible to those in the park, a far cry from both “white cube” galleries worldwide, the plain boxes where paintings are hung in antiseptic walls, and also the dusty, impermeable Auckland Gallery of old.

In 2008, the gallery averaged just 190,000 visitors annually. After reopening, it had 300,000 in five months. Cynics will chalk that up to the novelty of the new, but the fact is the gallery is now an alluring cultural space which is crawling with young people.

Questions 89–92

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the passage? Mark on the Answer Sheet:

- TRUE** *if the statement agrees with the information*
- FALSE** *if the statement contradicts the information*
- NOT GIVEN** *if there is no information on this*

- 89. The primary obstacle faced by the architects working on municipal buildings was opposition from conservationists.
- 90. The Auckland Gallery project was particularly difficult because it needed to satisfy non-local patrons.
- 91. Some young people did not visit the gallery because of the way it made them feel.
- 92. Stephen King's involvement in the project reflects his understanding of the architects' use of kauri.

Questions 93–96

Complete the summary below. Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

Before renovation began, the gallery’s layout created confusion for visitors due to its fragmented internal (93) _____ and the existence of multiple floor heights caused by repeated alterations. In restoring one historic space, builders adopted an unusual sequence of construction, beginning at the top where (94) _____ was first installed.

The architects sought to create a distinctive public identity through a sweeping roof structure supported by steel columns clad in a native timber. Critics later claimed this design improperly appropriated the (95) _____ associated with that material. Nevertheless, the project ultimately demonstrated that earlier criticism reflected widespread (96) _____ rather than objective assessment.

Questions 97 and 98

Choose the correct option (A, B, C, or D). Mark your answers on the Answer Sheet.

- 97. What point is the writer making by stating that 16% of the sample group did not know where the museum was?
 - A. The location of the gallery was difficult to access.
 - B. The gallery was not reaching out to involve young people.
 - C. The entrance to the gallery was not well signposted.
 - D. Young people are not interested in galleries.
- 98. In the final paragraph, the writer suggests that the gallery’s recent increase in visitor numbers:
 - A. may not be sustainable in the long term when novelty has passed.
 - B. proves that functionality was more important than aesthetics.
 - C. demonstrates that the renovation successfully changed public perception.
 - D. occurred despite ongoing resistance from local authorities.

Passage 3

For questions 99–105, the following passage is an excerpt from “Hidden Figures” by Margot Lee Shetter. Seven pieces of text have been removed. Choose from the texts A–J the one which fits each gap (99–105). There are THREE extra pieces of text that you do not need to use. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

In 1959, six of Langley’s female employees—Lucille Coltrane, Jean Clark Keating, Katherine Cullie Speegle, Ruth Whitman, Emily Stephens Mueller, and Dorothy Lee— assembled around a table in a Langley office to sit for a group photo, their elegant, well-made suits amplifying the confidence in their gaze.

99.

Five out of the six women pictured worked in PARD. One of the women in the photo, Dorothy Lee, had accepted a position as a human computer in PARD in 1948. When branch chief Maxime Faget’s secretary took off for a two-week honeymoon, Dorothy was asked to sub for her.

100.

Early in her career at Langley, Dorothy Lee was interviewed for the Daily Press. “Do you believe,” she was asked, “that women working with men have to think like a man, work like a dog, and act like a lady?” “Yes, I do,” Lee said, who was then mildly mortified to read her words in the Sunday paper. It was the “acting like a lady” term of the equation that was so vexing.

101.

Men were engineers and women were computers; men did the analytical thinking and women did the calculations. Men gave the orders and women took notes.

102.

But the average level of interest in the work among female employees was no lower than it was for their male counterparts, who managed to carve out a comfortable place for themselves in the bureaucracy despite modest talents or ambition. For the women who had found their true calling like Dorothy Lee and Katherine Johnson, they woke up dreaming of angles of attack and two-body orbit equations and ablation processes no less than did their counterparts.

103.

Whatever personal insecurities Katherine Johnson might have had about being a woman working with men, or about being one of the few blacks in a white workplace, she managed to cast them aside when she came to work in the morning.

104.

She was going to assume that the smart fellas who sat across the desk, with whom she shared a telephone line and the occasional lunchtime game of bridge, felt the same. She only needed to break through their blind spots and make her case.

105.

She asked early, she asked often, and she asked penetrating questions about the work. She asked with the highest respect for the natures of the brainy fellas she worked with, and she asked knowing that she was the right person for a task that needed the finest minds. As much as anything, she asked with confidence in the ultimate decision.

Texts to choose:

- A. She had long since decided that success in the division depended less on challenging the system directly and more on quietly demonstrating one’s competence.
- B. A little bit of coyness, like wormwood, could be pleasantly intoxicating, smoothing interactions with the men. Too much politesse, however, might poison a woman’s prospects for advancement. Women were “supposed” to wait for the assignments from their supervisors, and weren’t expected to take the lead by asking questions or pushing for plum assignments.
- C. “Why can’t I go to the editorial meetings?” Katherine Johnson asked again, undeterred by the initial demurrals. She always kept up the questioning until she received a satisfactory answer. Her requests were gentle but persistent, like the trickle of water that eventually forces its way through rock. The greatest adventure in the history of humankind was happening two desks away, and it would be a betrayal of her own self-confidence and of the judgment of everyone who had helped her to reach this point to not go the final distance.

- D. They matched their male colleagues in curiosity, passion, and the ability to withstand pressure. Their path to advancement might look less like a straight line and more like some of the pressure distributions and orbits they plotted, but they were determined to take a seat at the table. First, however, they had to get over the high hurdle of low expectations.
- E. “Women Scientists,” the photographer labelled the picture, though the particulars of the occasion would be lost to the passage of time. They had rated inclusion in the photograph because of some combination of rank, research contributions, and general esteem in the eyes of their bosses.
- F. She answered the phones and distributed the mail in addition to her regular duties, which at the time involved solving a triple integral for an engineer in the division. At the end of the two weeks, she had so impressed Faget with her math that he invited her to become a permanent member of his branch, apprenticing her to men who showed her the ropes of aerodynamic heating. By 1959, she had authored one report, coauthored seven more, including one with Max Faget, and been promoted to engineer.
- G. The racism stuff, the woman stuff: she managed to tuck all that way in a place far from her core, where it would not damage her steely confidence. As far as Katherine was concerned—as far as she had decided—once they got to the office, “they were all the same.”
- H. “Let her go,” they finally said, exasperated. The engineers just got tired of saying no. Who were they, they must have figured, to stand in the way of someone so committed to making a contribution, so convinced of the quality of her contribution that she was willing to stand up to the men whose success—or failure—might tip the balance in the outcome of the Cold War?
- I. Unless an engineer was given a compelling reason to evaluate a woman as a peer, she remained in his blind spot, her usefulness measured against the limited task at hand, any additional talents undiscovered.
- J. Like many of her colleagues, she had learned that success at Langley required patience as much as brilliance, and that recognition rarely came quickly.

PART 3. WRITING (3.50 pts) – Questions 106–130

Questions 106–115 WORD FORMATION (1.00 pts)

Provide the most suitable form of the given word in brackets to complete each space in the passage below. Write no more than ONE word for each space. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

In recent years, the appeal of precious metals like gold and silver has surged due to a variety of factors. The (106) _____ [PREDICT] of global markets has caused investors to gravitate towards these (107) _____ [YIELD] assets as a secure refuge. Historically, gold has been an essential part of (108) _____ [COIN] that symbolizes wealth and stability throughout civilizations. As nations face geopolitical tensions, the strength of these metals has become increasingly vital and pulled them to the (109) _____ [FRONT] of investment strategies. The current economic landscape, with its (110) _____ [PUNISH] high inflation rates, has created an environment where holding physical assets becomes essential. Investors are now more (111) _____ [BULL] than ever. They perceive precious metals as a means to underpin their portfolios against a potential (112) _____ [TURN] of the economy. Despite uncertainties, the (113) _____ [ENDURE] charm of these (114) _____ [COLLECT] suggests that their place in the market will only continue to grow, (115) _____ [FORCE] their status as a risk-free asset even if monetary policies begin to normalize

Questions 116–120 ERROR CORRECTION (0.50 pts)

Identify the FIVE errors in the following passage and correct them. Indicate the line at which mistakes are found, and how to correct them. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS for each error/correction.

Example:

| Line | Error | Correction |
|------|-------|------------|
| 1 | for | with |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Line | |
| 1 | Most people contend <i>for</i> stress in some element of their lives. What can you do when you |
| 2 | are overwhelmed by it and your coping mechanisms no longer seem to work as stress just |
| 3 | happens to you everyday? Recognizing stress is one of the first steps towards coping with it. |
| 4 | “When we are stressed, our body undergoes physiological changes as part of our fight or flight,” |
| 5 | says Hannah Stebbings, an integrative therapy at Priory hospital Barnt Green in Birmingham. |
| 6 | “We get increased heart rates, and then the stress hormones cortisol and adrenaline get released, |
| 7 | and it floods our bodies.” This causes physical symptoms such as headaches or issues with the |
| 8 | digestion system, and then there is the emotional aspect: “You might notice that you’re feeling |
| 9 | irritable, anxious, and you’ve got a low mood as well as a lack of motivation: these are key signs |
| 10 | that you are in a lot of stress.” This can mean people withdraw and avoid socialising, “or you |
| 11 | might be a bit more snappy with your friends, partner, children, and colleagues.” |

Questions 121–130 SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION (2.00 pts)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given in brackets. Do NOT make any changes to the word given. You must write from THREE to EIGHT words, including the given word.

Example:

0. Do you mind if I watch you while you paint? (**OBJECTION**)

Do you _____ you while you paint?

Write ONLY the missing words on the Answer Sheet:

| | |
|----------|--|
| 0 | have any objection to my watching |
|----------|--|

- 121. People say many citizens were scared of rising up. (**CHICKENED**)
Many citizens _____ it is said.
- 122. The tenant signed the new lease as soon as the landlord admitted he was wrong. (**BACKED**)
The tenant waited _____ signing the new lease.
- 123. Edna worked such long hours without any rest that she eventually collapsed. (**BURN**)
To such _____ both ends that she eventually collapsed.
- 124. I doubt that the witness is trying to deceive the jury. (**WOOL**)
The witness may _____ over the jury's eyes.
- 125. More than once, people saw Linh become upset. (**SEEN**)
Many's _____ composure.
- 126. When comparing equal weights, fresh fruit falls short of nuts in terms of fiber content. (**FAVORABLY**)
Weight _____ to nuts in terms of fiber content.
- 127. I am used to the notion of working hard all day and receiving decent pay in return. (**PUTTING**)
I am no stranger _____ work for a fair day's pay.
- 128. David was disinherited because of legal reasons, and the act divided the entire family. (**CUT**)
That _____ grounds divided the entire family.
- 129. My supervisor is so meticulous that he constantly finds mistakes in my reports. (**FAULT**)
My supervisor is meticulous to _____ holes in my reports.
- 130. He confessed that he felt a bit bad about being so straightforward. (**MINCING**)
He confessed to a few _____.

THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST

(Đề thi gồm 11 trang)