

SPRINGBOARD EDUCATION

ĐỀ THI LUYỆN TẬP

KỲ THI THỬ HỌC SINH GIỎI QUỐC GIA

TRUNG HỌC PHỔ THÔNG

NĂM HỌC 2025 – 2026

Môn thi: **TIẾNG ANH**
Thời gian: **180** phút (không kể thời gian giao đề)
Ngày thi: **30/02/2025**

Đề thi gồm có **25** trang

- Thí sinh **KHÔNG** được sử dụng tài liệu, kể cả từ điển.
- Giám thị **KHÔNG** giải thích gì thêm.

I. LISTENING (5.0 points)

HƯỚNG DẪN PHẦN THI NGHE HIỂU

- The listening section is in **FOUR** parts. You will hear each part **TWICE**. At the beginning of each part, you will hear a sound.
- There will be a piece of music at the beginning and at the end of the listening section. You will have **TWO** minutes to check your answers at the end of the listening section.
- All the other instructions are included in the recording.

Part 1. For question 1-5, listen to a talk about the search for alien life, and decide whether each of the following statements is True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG) according to what you hear. Write T, F, or NG in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- To date, humanity has found no definitive evidence suggesting the existence of alien life.
- The telescope featured in the video is primarily designed to detect alien radio transmissions
- Fluctuations in a star's brightness can offer valuable clues in the search for potentially habitable exoplanets.
- The light detected from WASP-96b indicates the presence of water-based life.
- The speaker suggests that the telescope AI plays a hand in identifying signs of life.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Part 2. Write NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS taken from the recording talking about salmon agriculture for each answer in the spaces provided.

1. Which farming approach has enabled salmon aquaculture to expand so extensively?

2. What widespread human blights does fish farming help alleviate?

3. Which parasitic organism continues to pose a significant threat to salmon farms?

4. In what way does the escape of farmed salmon into rivers negatively affect wild populations?

5. What is facing mounting strain due to the demand for feed in fish farming?

Part 3. For questions 11–15, listen to a news report on a chocolate business and write the answer A, B, C, or D in the numbered boxes provided to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions according to what you hear.

11. What catalyzed the formation of Tony's Choclonely as a response to global industry inaction?

- A. The realization that voluntary international agreements were largely symbolic and unenforceable.
- B. Public backlash against Western chocolate brands following major exposés on unethical sourcing.
- C. A legal challenge filed against major cocoa exporters for negligence in supply chain monitoring.
- D. Increasing EU regulatory pressure on companies to prove ethical transparency in sourcing practices.

12. How did the founders of Tony's Choclonely blend activism with provocation in their early strategy?

- A. By submitting formal petitions to European courts on consumer responsibility laws.
- B. By initiating a media campaign that directly implicated large chocolate companies in child exploitation.
- C. By smuggling symbolic "tainted" bars across national borders to attract global attention
- D. By orchestrating a direct confrontation with local law enforcement to test the limits of complicity laws.

13. What does the company's choice to feature West African shapes in the chocolate bar design most directly convey?

- A. An attempt to personalize the consumer experience by linking taste to geography.
- B. A branding tactic to align the product with African artisanal aesthetics.
- C. A deliberate homage to cocoa's origin while critiquing the imbalance in the industry's value distribution.
- D. A visual representation of the company's international sourcing and logistics strategy.

14. Which operational shift illustrates Tony’s commitment to long-term market penetration over immediate returns?

- A. Developing proprietary farming cooperatives in key cocoa-producing regions.
- B. Establishing domestic production infrastructure in a foreign market despite profitability delays.
- C. Diversifying into adjacent ethical food categories to expand market share.
- D. Limiting flavor expansion to maintain consistency in brand ethics.

15. What challenge underscores Tony’s Chocolonely’s growth within a highly consolidated industry?

- A. Building brand identity in a sector where market visibility is dictated by scale and legacy.
- B. Counteracting misinformation campaigns orchestrated by large conglomerates.
- C. Gaining access to cocoa futures markets controlled by multinational corporations
- D. Avoiding ethical greenwashing while attempting rapid growth.

Your answers:

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
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Part 4. For questions 16–25, listen to part of a talk about magic words and phrases, and complete the following summary. Write NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS taken from the recording for each blank. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Throughout history, (16)_____ have been deeply interwoven with humanity’s attempts to harness the mystical force of language. In ancient Mesopotamia, they served protective and healing purposes, while in Egypt, spoken and written words were deemed powerful enough to secure sustenance for the dead or to curse enemies through elaborate (17)_____, disturbance, and nightmarish sleep . Jewish folklore tells of the golem—animated from mud through sacred utterances—and across cultures, texts describing how to summon (18)_____ or unlock divine wisdom gained prominence.

These practices persist in various forms today, from the chanting in (19)_____ and Buddhist traditions to modern affirmations by motivational speakers. Even childhood rhymes, uttered out of a (20)_____, reflect the same ancient impulse. In the (21)_____ of the Western world, Latin has long reigned supreme. The word “abracadabra,” often presumed to have (22)_____, has documented use since the second century CE as part of a (23)_____ involving a triangular word pattern meant to diminish illness as letters vanished.

Ultimately, magic words (24)_____ because they embody the notion that language holds transformative power—a belief mirrored in sacred texts considered the ultimate (25)_____ in many faiths.

Your answers:

16.	17.
18.	19.
20.	21.
22.	23.
24.	25.

II. LEXICO – GRAMMAR (2.0 points)

Part 1. For questions 26–35, write the letter A, B, C, or D in the numbered boxes provided to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

26. Despite mounting criticism, the CEO refused to _____ ground, insisting the decision was final.
A. reclaim B. give C. take D. break
27. The documentary offered a(n) _____ look into the harsh realities of life in the war-torn region.
A. unrelenting B. cursory C. hard-hitting D. superficial
28. He was walking on _____ after receiving two warnings for misconduct at work.
A. broken glass B. the edge C. a tightrope D. thin ice
29. Her remarks were peppered with _____, making it hard to distinguish facts from sarcasm.
A. innuendo B. candour C. aphorism D. eulogy
30. The new policy was introduced under the _____ of improving efficiency, but it led to mass layoffs.
A. umbrella B. guise C. veil D. pretense
31. Although she had no formal qualifications, she was a _____ learner and quickly mastered the role.
A. fast B. sharp C. natural D. quick
32. After months of silence, the actor finally broke his _____ and addressed the controversy.
A. silence B. image C. contract D. wall
33. The proposal looked good on paper but fell _____ in practice.
A. down B. away C. short D. flat
34. She spoke with such _____ authority that even the skeptics were persuaded.
A. commanding B. forceful C. resounding D. articulate
35. Tony's refusal to chase immediate profits sets it apart from more ____ industry giants.

A. myopic

B. transient

C. altruistic

D. peripheral

Your answers:

26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
31.	32.	33.	34.	35.

Part 2. For questions 36–40, write the correct form of each bracketed word in the numbered space provided in the column on the right to complete the passage. The first one has been done as an example.

Families were therefore nuclear and patriarchal and only one son inherited the _____ (MONEY)

36. _____

Education was once the _____ of the elite (INTERROGATE)

37. _____

The exam is strictly _____ and its scoring process is blind (VIGIL)

38. _____

The museum faced criticism for its _____ of colonial artifacts without proper historical context. (DISPLAY)

39. _____

His sudden and public _____ from the scientific community shocked even his closest colleagues. (COMMUNE)

40. _____

Part 3. The passage below contains 05 grammatical mistakes. For questions 41–45, UNDERLINE the mistakes and WRITE YOUR CORRECTIONS in the numbered space provided in the column on the right. The first one has been done as an example.

Globally, humanity is producing more food than ever, but that harvest is concentrated in just a handful of breadbaskets.

Your answers:

41. _____

More than one-third of the world's wheat and barley export come from Ukraine and Russia, for example. Some of these highly productive farmlands, including major crop-growing regions in the United States, are on track to seeing the sharpest drops in harvests due to climate change.

42. _____

43. _____

44. _____

That's bad news not just for farmers, but also for everyone who eats — especially as it becomes harder and more expensive to feed a more crowded, hungry world, according to a new study published in the journal *Nature*.

45. _____

Under a moderate greenhouse gas emissions scenario, six key staple crops will see an 11.2 percent decline by the end of the century opposed to a world without warming, even as farmers try to adapt. And the largest drops aren't occurring in the poorer, more marginal farmlands, but in places that are already major food producers. These are regions like the US Midwest that have been blessed with good soil and idealistic weather for raising staples like maize and soy.

III. READING (5.0 points)

Part 1. For questions 46–55, read the passage and fill in each of the following numbered blanks with ONE suitable word. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

If you've never watched 1966's *Grand Prix*, now is the time to do it. This summer's blockbuster slot may belong to *F1*; and its director, Joseph Kosinski, may have gone to extraordinary (46)_____ to capture the visceral speed of the fastest class in (47)_____ sport. But John Frankenheimer got there first.

The close parallels between the two films have gone largely (48)_____ in the reviews. Six decades ago, when the glamour of the sport was peaking, Frankenheimer set out to capture its thrill, daring and inescapable danger. He fixed cameras to the chassis of Formula Two cars – the same substitute Kosinski has used – that hared round Brands Hatch, Spa, Monaco. Like Kosinski, he spliced real (49)_____ footage into his own.

His American lead, James Garner, did his own driving, just like Brad Pitt. There are even occasional shots in Kosinski's film that seem to pay (50)_____, intentional or not, to its (51)_____ – the moment that recalls Frankenheimer's stylistic use of split-screen, or when Pitt jogs around the old Monza banking.

F1 the Movie, to be clear, is a billion-dollar (52)_____ giving itself a full valet – shampooed squeaky clean and buffed to an impossible sheen. But it's also the kind of sports-washing I'm prepared to indulge for the sake of the pure adrenaline (53)_____.

After watching *Top Gun: Maverick* at the cinema, I walked straight back in for the next screening and sat in the front row so I could pretend to be in the (54)_____. At the Imax this week I was practically climbing into the screen. I was definitely the only woman my age leaning into the (55)_____, and wishing they would stop cutting back to Pitt's face so that I got more track time.

Your answers:

46.	47.	48.	49.	50.
51.	52.	53.	54.	55.

Part 2. Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

We are on the brink of a technological revolution that could jumpstart productivity, boost global growth and raise incomes around the world. Yet it could also replace jobs and deepen inequality.

The rapid advance of artificial intelligence has captivated the world, causing both excitement and alarm, and raising important questions about its potential impact on the global economy. The net effect is difficult to foresee, as AI will ripple through economies in complex ways. What we can say with some confidence is that we will need to come up with a set of policies to safely leverage the vast potential of AI for the benefit of humanity.

In a new analysis, IMF staff examine the potential impact of AI on the global labor market. Many studies have predicted the likelihood that jobs will be replaced by AI. Yet we know that in many cases AI is likely to complement human work. The IMF analysis captures both these forces.

The findings are striking: almost 40 percent of global employment is exposed to AI. Historically, automation and information technology have tended to affect routine tasks, but one of the things that sets AI apart is its ability to impact high-skilled jobs. As a result, advanced economies face greater risks from AI—but also more opportunities to leverage its benefits—compared with emerging markets and developing economies. In advanced economies, about 60 percent of jobs may be impacted by AI. Roughly half the exposed jobs may benefit from AI integration, enhancing productivity. For the other half, AI applications may execute key tasks currently performed by humans, which could lower labor demand, leading to lower wages and reduced hiring. In the most extreme cases, some of these jobs may disappear.

In emerging markets and low-income countries, by contrast, AI exposure is expected to be 40 percent and 26 percent, respectively. These findings suggest emerging markets and developing economies face fewer immediate disruptions from AI. At the same time, many of these countries don't have the infrastructure or skilled workforces to harness the benefits of AI, raising the risk that over time the technology could worsen inequality among nations.

AI could also affect income and wealth inequality within countries. We may see polarization within income brackets, with workers who can harness AI seeing an increase in their productivity and wages—and those who cannot fall behind. Research shows that AI can help less experienced workers enhance their productivity more quickly. Younger workers may find it easier to exploit opportunities, while older workers could struggle to adapt.

The effect on labor income will largely depend on the extent to which AI will complement high-income workers. If AI significantly complements higher-income workers, it may lead to a disproportionate increase in their labor income. Moreover, gains in productivity from firms that adopt AI will likely boost capital returns, which may also favor high earners. Both of these phenomena could exacerbate inequality.

In most scenarios, AI will likely worsen overall inequality, a troubling trend that policymakers must proactively address to prevent the technology from further stoking social tensions. It is crucial for countries to establish comprehensive social safety nets and offer retraining programs for vulnerable workers. In doing so, we can make the AI transition more inclusive, protecting livelihoods and curbing inequality.

AI is being integrated into businesses around the world at remarkable speed, underscoring the need for policymakers to act.

Guided by the insights from the AI Preparedness Index, advanced economies should prioritize AI innovation and integration while developing robust regulatory frameworks. This approach will cultivate a safe and responsible AI environment, helping maintain public trust. For emerging markets and developing economies, the priority should be laying a strong foundation through investments in digital infrastructure and a digitally competent workforce. The AI era is upon us, and it is still within our power to ensure it brings prosperity for all.

For questions 56-62, decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG). Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

56. Excitement about AI has been matched by widespread concern regarding its societal consequences.

57. The complexity of AI's effects makes it difficult to accurately predict its net economic impact.

58. AI's ability to influence high-skilled professions marks a significant departure from the historical trend of automation

59. According to the IMF analysis, AI integration is expected to raise overall global employment rates in the short term.

60. The influence of AI on different job markets will be similarly disruptive

61. AI-driven gains in capital returns are expected to favor high earners, potentially worsening income inequality.
62. The IMF recommends that AI be introduced more cautiously in low-income countries due to infrastructural limitations.

56.	57.	58.	59.	60.	61.	62.
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For questions 63–68, read the following summary and fill in each blank with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS taken from the passage. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

The (63) _____ of artificial intelligence on the global economy remains uncertain due to its complex and far-reaching influence. Unlike previous technologies that primarily targeted (64) _____, AI now affects a broader spectrum of jobs, including high-skilled positions. This poses significant risks and opportunities, especially for advanced economies.

Emerging markets and low-income countries are expected to experience (65) _____, though their limited infrastructure and workforce capabilities may prevent them from fully benefiting from AI advancements. This could widen inequality between nations over time.

Domestically, AI may increase disparities by boosting (66) _____, favoring those able to integrate AI into their work—typically younger or more adaptable workers—while others risk being left behind. The technology is also expected to (67) _____, further concentrating labor income and capital gains among top earners, thereby exacerbating inequality. To mitigate these outcomes, the passage underscores the urgent need for robust (68) _____ policies and workforce retraining, ensuring a more equitable and inclusive AI transition.

Part 3. In the passage below, seven paragraphs have been removed. For questions 69–75, read the passage and choose from paragraphs A–H the one which fits each gap. There is ONE extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Write the letters A–H in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

For decades, the term “work-life balance” has been touted as the ideal state that all professionals should strive for—a harmonious equilibrium between the demands of work and the joys of life. But this notion is deeply flawed—a myth that sets us up for perpetual dissatisfaction. Perhaps it is time for leaders to discard the fallacy of work-life balance and embrace a more realistic approach to integrating work and life.

69	
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While these objectives were crucial, the idea of balance itself became an oversimplified solution to a complex problem. It suggests a binary relationship between work and life, as if they are two opposing

forces that need to be balanced on a scale. In reality, work and life are not distinct entities—they are deeply intertwined.

70

The idea of balance implies that we can evenly distribute our energy and attention between work and life, leading to a perfect state of equilibrium. However, life is inherently unpredictable and dynamic, filled with fluctuations that defy such neat compartmentalization.

71

The American Psychological Association’s research demonstrates that stress from juggling work and life is a significant contributor to declining mental health. The APA’s annual “Stress in America” survey consistently finds that work is a top source of stress, often compounded by the pressures of home life. The expectation to balance these seamlessly only exacerbates the problem.

72

Schulte’s research highlights that those who view their time more holistically—seeing work and life as integrated rather than separate—report higher levels of satisfaction and well-being. Or consider the approach taken by companies like Patagonia and SAS Institute. These organizations have long recognized the importance of supporting employees’ overall well-being rather than just offering flexible work hours. Patagonia, for instance, encourages employees to take breaks and spend time outdoors, integrating their love for nature with their professional responsibilities.

73

Arianna Huffington’s book *Thrive* delves into the importance of redefining success beyond the traditional metrics of money and power. She advocates for the Third Metric—well-being, wisdom, wonder, and giving. Huffington argues that true fulfillment comes from integrating these elements into our lives rather than trying to balance them against our work.

74

In my work (and life), I've found that the pursuit of work-life balance is a misguided endeavor that sets unrealistic expectations and neglects the complex realities of our lives. Leaders must have a rethink.

75

Missing Paragraphs:

A.	A 2022 Gallup report reveals that 60% of people are emotionally detached at work, and an additional 19% are downright miserable. This pervasive detachment highlights a fundamental issue: striving for balance is unrealistic and insufficient.
B.	Some critics argue that the real issue lies not in how we balance or integrate work and life, but in how modern society has glorified overwork as a marker of moral virtue. In cultures where busyness is equated with importance, rest is often mistaken for laziness, and productivity becomes a proxy for self-worth. This “hustle culture” mentality is deeply embedded in media, education, and even childhood upbringing, where children are praised for being constantly active or “driven.” Addressing the work-life dilemma, then, may require a deeper cultural shift—one that redefines value not by how much one produces, but by how meaningfully one lives.
C.	By shifting our focus from balance to integration, we can create workplaces that support the full spectrum of our employees' lives, fostering environments where people can truly thrive. It's time to let go of the myth of work-life balance and embrace a more holistic, sustainable approach to work and life.
D.	The concept of work-life balance emerged in the 1980s, popularized by the women's liberation movement, which rightfully sought better working conditions, including maternity leave and flexible work schedules.
E.	SAS Institute, known for its employee-friendly policies, provides extensive health and wellness programs, emphasizing the holistic health of its workforce. These initiatives have been shown to improve employee satisfaction, productivity, and innovation
F.	As leaders, we are responsible for nurturing our team members' whole selves, encouraging and coaching them to simply “be their best” as the situation warrants. It involves providing the tools and support they need to manage both work and life effectively. It's about creating a culture where individuals feel valued and respected, where their well-being is a priority, and where they are encouraged to develop their skills and pursue meaningful work. It means recognizing that

	every individual's needs are different and adapting leadership styles to meet those diverse needs.
G.	Consider the case of Nicole, whose story, though harrowing, is all too common. In 2017, Nicole faced a series of devastating personal tragedies, including the loss of a child and her sibling's suicide attempt. Simultaneously, she dealt with a toxic work environment that demanded emotional stoicism and punished vulnerability. The pursuit of balance in such a scenario is absurd; what Nicole needed was not balance but support and understanding from her workplace. In the end, Nicole chose to voluntarily leave her senior executive role. It was this high-profile organization's loss, one that could easily have been avoided. Nowadays, Nicole is flourishing at a different, high-profile company that fully understands her needs.
H.	In her book <i>Overwhelmed: Work, Love, and Play When No One Has the Time</i> , Brigid Schulte explores how the pursuit of balance often leaves people feeling more harried and less fulfilled. She argues for a more fluid approach to managing our time and energy, one that acknowledges the ebbs and flows of daily life.

Part 4. For questions 76-85, read a passage on economic and educational inequalities and write A, B, C or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided to indicate the correct answer which fits best according to what is stated or implied in the text.

1. One of today's most pressing economic issues is the worrisome level of income inequality. Since 1979, the total share of income claimed by the bottom 90 percent of Americans has steadily decreased. In 1979, that 90 percent received about 67 percent of cash, market-based income. By 2015, their share had decreased to about 52 percent of pretax income. The majority of income gains during this period went to the top 1 percent. Polls reflect widespread concern about income and wage inequalities and associated trends and the desire for policies to address these inequalities.

2. Rising inequality might not be such a major concern if our education, economic, and social protection systems acted as compensatory mechanisms, helping individuals, and especially children, rise above their birth circumstances and improve their mobility. But that is hardly the case. Rather, the fraction of children who earn more than their parents (a measure of what social scientists refer to as absolute mobility) has fallen from approximately 90 percent for children born in 1940 to 50 percent for children born in the 1980s. Children of certain ethnic and racial minorities who are disproportionately likely to live in concentrated poverty are also more likely to do so over prolonged periods of time. And the close connections between

education inequalities and economic inequalities cast doubt on assertions that America provides “equality of opportunities” that promotes social mobility.

3. The influence of income inequality affects multiple aspects of society’s functioning, from health outcomes and even life expectancy to democratic ideals . In the education arena, children’s socioeconomic status (SES), of which income is a key component, is considered one of the most significant predictors—if not the most significant predictor—of educational success. A number of studies show the strong relationship between social class (of which socioeconomic status is a frequent measure) and test scores, educational attainment, and college attendance and completion. As a result of these trends and associations, achievement gaps by social class have grown substantially since the 1960s, especially between children at the highest end of the income distribution and all of the others.

4. Large and growing disparities in the economic well-being of children in America and extensive evidence linking those disparities to widely diverging educational outcomes have prompted action among a growing number of communities and school districts. Heeding the evidence that out-of-school factors play even larger roles than school-based factors in school performance, these districts are seeking ways to mitigate the poverty-related impediments to effective teaching and learning.

5. These districts have benefited from a substantial body of research on strategies with promise to address core challenges that students and schools face—strategies that have been shown to shrink achievement gaps by narrowing major disparities in opportunity (Carter and Welner 2013). The first, and perhaps best-documented, of these strategies is high-quality early child care and education, especially when it engages parents early and in meaningful ways. High-quality early childhood education programs not only narrow achievement gaps at kindergarten entry but also deliver long-term benefits to children, their families, and society as a whole

6. Whole-child approaches integrate these and other strategies into a comprehensive set of aligned interventions, leveraging the whole community’s resources to meet the broad range of student needs. While the impact of such comprehensive approaches has not been studied as extensively as the individual components, considerable theoretical and emerging empirical research point to the strong potential of such strategies to boost achievement and narrow gaps

76. What is the primary implication of the decline in the share of income for the bottom 90 percent since 1979?

- A. Tax policies have equally benefited all income groups.
- B. There has been a rise in government support for the middle class.
- C. Market-based income has diminished across the board.

D. Wealth has become increasingly concentrated among top earners.

77. According to the text, why is rising inequality particularly alarming in the U.S.?

- A. It contradicts trends observed in developing countries.
- B. It is accompanied by a shrinking labor market.
- C. It is not offset by strong educational and social mobility systems.
- D. It has led to the dismantling of public education.

78. What does the sharp decline in absolute mobility from children born in 1940 to those born in the 1980s most clearly illustrate?

- A. The promise of upward mobility is eroding across generations.
- B. Most children today are earning significantly more than their parents did.
- C. The economy has become more resilient to recessions over time.
- D. Children now prefer non-monetary measures of success over income.

79. What does the text suggest about the connection between income and educational outcomes?

- A. Educational performance is primarily determined by student motivation.
- B. Socioeconomic factors are a secondary concern compared to school quality.
- C. Income is a critical predictor of academic achievement.
- D. Children from all income brackets have comparable access to education.

80. How does the text challenge the idea that America offers “equality of opportunity”?

- A. By showing that school funding is uniformly distributed.
- B. By demonstrating that economic mobility is closely tied to educational inequality.
- C. By asserting that low-income children generally outperform their wealthier peers.
- D. By claiming that all children now have access to early education.

81. Which group is identified as being especially vulnerable to long-term poverty and its consequences?

- A. Children in single-parent households
- B. Children from ethnic and racial minority backgrounds
- C. Children with disabilities
- D. Children in suburban neighborhoods

82. What rationale does the text provide for addressing out-of-school factors in education policy?

- A. Teachers are unable to control classroom environments.

- B. Curriculum reforms have already closed most achievement gaps.
- C. External conditions influence learning more than in-school factors.
- D. Standardized testing has eliminated socioeconomic disparities.

83. What distinguishes high-quality early childhood education programs, according to the text?

- A. They focus solely on academic instruction.
- B. They involve parental engagement from the outset.
- C. They eliminate the need for later schooling interventions.
- D. They require minimal investment but yield high results.

84. What is the function of “whole-child approaches” as described in the text?

- A. To standardize curriculum across school districts
- B. To focus exclusively on cognitive development
- C. To coordinate community resources addressing a range of student needs
- D. To increase classroom sizes for better efficiency

85. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage regarding current educational responses to inequality?

- A. Skeptical but resigned
- B. Neutral and purely analytical
- C. Dismissive of early intervention efforts
- D. Cautiously optimistic and research-informed

76.	77.	78.	79.	80.
81.	82.	83.	84.	85.

Part 5. The passage below consists of five paragraphs (A-E). For questions 86-95, read the passage and do the tasks that follow. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

A. I work part time and I'm very thankful and happy I made the decision and found a good part time job. After working full time I was so drained and tired everyday. Since I work part time I feel better, less drained, less depressed. I have finally a bit of energy left and can use that energy to spend time with hobbies, working out and family. Of course I don't earn a ton of money like someone working full time but it's enough for me personally. Other than that my expenditure usually stays low, but I still can afford stuff I want. And if I really would need a car I could borrow one from my parents. My new job isn't far away too so

that saves a lot of time and money, I plan to cycle to work with my bike once it gets warmer outside. I think sometimes people look down on people who work part time or think they're lazy but that's not the case. This is just how I kinda function the best personally. The energy and time that is left to do other things in life is worth it for me. I think just do what feels the best and is actually possible in your situation financially as well.

B. From a personal perspective I work roughly three times a week during summertime and twice during the school year and have improved my public speaking because of working in the restaurant industry — as well as forming responsibility and always showing up. This promotes a work ethic that will influence high school students to create a well balanced schedule and they will understand the importance of a work ethic. On the downside, working as a young person may open you up to criticism and rejection. In my opinion, however, it is best to experience this at least once while working when you're a teenager; it shows the imperfections of working and that work is ultimately a learning experience.

C. Having a job that I enjoy and that I'm good at really helps keep my mental health intact and makes me feel like I accomplish more and give me more motivation to improve my daily life and be the best person I can be. I currently work part-time at an automotive collision repair shop where I detail vehicles and complete common shop maintenance like sweeping floors, taking out the trash, mopping, and even picking up parts we order from locations as far as a couple of hours away from where I work. Managing homework is also really not as hard as it seems ... The most important thing that keeps me doing my school work is that if I don't have passing grades, then I don't work until I have passing grades. For most of my high school career, I struggled with my academics but senior year has consisted of me turning a new leaf which has gone extremely well since I currently have all A's in my classes as well as putting in just about 30 hours a week of work.

D. While part-timers tend to keep their nose to the grindstone at work and tie up any loose ends outside office hours, full-timers feel comfortable taking social media breaks, lingering over lunch or running errands while officially on the clock. To be sure, this may not seem fair or right. One woman working an 80% schedule (at corresponding pay) told me that she was pretty sure she was working just as much as full-time colleagues. But, she told me, "I choose to do what I perceive to be the right thing." I have a lot of respect for her integrity, and I'm not advocating subterfuge. But I think the attitudes expressed by Jane and the fathers in Reid's study better reflect how forward-thinking organizations expect knowledge workers to behave nowadays. There are ways to legitimately work full time (not overtime) without spending all of it in the office.

E. In high school and college, I worked part-time in food service, and later in computer labs and web development. It's time-consuming to juggle school and work, but rewarding; you get paid, and your time management skills improve. You learn to be reliable, show up, follow directions, learn new tasks, and complete tasks. You learn to pick up after yourself (in some fashion or another), to pick up after others, and why not leaving work for others is a good thing. You may learn some specific skills beyond these that translate to other jobs, but if not, it's OK. Most people work for the same reason: income. I love my job, but I wouldn't do it for free (or at least, I wouldn't do it as I currently do).

In which sections are the following mentioned?

Your answers:

- Describes opting for alternative vehicles due to lower income? 86. _____
- Now works nearly full-time hours while maintaining top grades for the first time in high school? 87. _____
- Learned basic professional skills like punctuality, cleaning up, and task completion from early jobs? 88. _____
- Openly admits that, despite enjoying their work, they wouldn't do it without pay? 89. _____
- Ties academic performance directly to the ability to keep working part-time? 90. _____
- Respects a colleague for doing the right thing, even when others take advantage of flexible work culture? 91. _____
- Believes experiencing rejection while young is valuable for personal growth? 92. _____
- Highlights feeling mentally healthier and more energized after shifting to part-time work? 93. _____
- Says working with the public helped improve their communication and sense of responsibility? 94. _____
- Points out that full-time workers sometimes misuse their hours compared to part-timers? 95. _____

IV. WRITING (6.0 points)

Part 1. Read the following extract and use your own words to summarise it. Your summary should be between 100 and 120 words.

The success of *PaRappa* soon spawned something of a movement in Japan, with a number of prominent developers creating new games in the genre. Leading the way was Konami, who created a number of titles

and introduced the idea of music games centered around specialty peripherals. The first of these projects was *Beatmania*, an arcade game that featured a pair of turntables and a mixing board. Players had to successfully keep up with on-screen indicators in order to keep the audience entertained. The line-up of music games quickly expanded, with titles like *Dance Dance Revolution*, *GuitarFreaks*, and *DrumMania* introducing gamers to dance-, guitar-, and drum-themed rhythm experiences.

These new experiences attempted to tap into the common human desire to be a musician. "A lot of young people want to be 'rock stars,' so the chance to simulate the thrill of playing in a rock band is very enticing," Douglas Rappaport, senior producer on two of Konami's more recent music games, *Rock Revolution* and *Karaoke Revolution*, told Ars. "In addition, it obviously doesn't take the amount of dedication and time to master a video game peripheral as it does to be proficient on a real-world instrument. It provides players instant gratification and entertainment even for the novice consumer."

Unfortunately, while these games proved very successful in Japan, very few made their way outside of that market. "In the U.S., there wasn't much of a music game market," Rappaport explained. One of the prohibitive factors with bringing these games overseas was their peripherals, which were both costly to produce and significantly increased the price of the games themselves. This cost factor, combined with the steady decline in North American arcades, ensured that the only titles to be localized for a North American audience were the likes of *Gitaroo Man* on the PS2 and *Space Channel 5* on Dreamcast, both of which used traditional controllers as input devices. Unfortunately, while these games garnered dedicated cult followings, they failed to really ignite the genre in North America.

But peripheral-based rhythm games refused to die, and eventually they made their way outside of Japan. The immense success of the *DDR* series in arcades led to an inevitable home release, with a version on the PSOne in 2001. The game featured a mat, which attempted to simulate the experience of the arcade versions. Like *Dance Revolution* over a decade before it, players used the mat to dance along to the rhythm on screen. Nintendo even jumped aboard the burgeoning bandwagon with *Donkey Konga* for the GameCube. Using a pair of plastic bongos, players played along with a number of different songs, including classic Nintendo tunes as well as tracks from more recent artists like Blink 182 and The Mighty Mighty Bosstones.

Part 2. Write an essay of about 350 words on the following topic.

Some people believe that governments should invest heavily in public mental health services, while others argue that it is the responsibility of individuals to manage their own well-being.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Springboard
English

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(You may write overleaf if you need more space.)

V. Speaking

“We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.” – Native American Proverb

How responsible should current generations be for solving environmental problems they didn’t create?

— GOOD LUCK, AND DO NOT CRY —

Springboard
English