

ĐỀ LUYỆN TẬP HSG QUỐC GIA

TẬP 02

2025 - 2026

springboard.vn



GIỚI THIỆU VỀ SPRINGBOARD (NHÀ XUÂN)

Springboard là **trung tâm định hướng ôn thi Chuyên Anh & HSG các cấp** (Huyện/Tỉnh/Thành/Quốc Gia/Olympic 30-4/DHBB). Springboard hướng đến nhóm học sinh từ lớp 7 - lớp 12 có niềm đam mê với bộ môn tiếng Anh và mong muốn chinh chiến những đấu trường HSG:

- Tại Springboard, các lớp học đều được dẫn dắt bởi mentors cựu học sinh chuyên Anh tại các trường THPT chuyên top đầu toàn quốc; đạt giải cao trong các kì thi Học Sinh Giỏi Quốc Gia/Tỉnh-Thành; IELTS ≥ 8.0 .
- Đào tạo bài bản từng kĩ năng trong Anh Chuyên với phương pháp mới lạ, liên tục được đổi mới từ giáo trình dạy ngôn ngữ ở các đại học quốc tế trên khắp thế giới.
- Lớp học truyền cảm hứng, hướng tới tạo ra thay đổi của mentees từ bên trong, từ các bài học Phát Triển Bản Thân và Định Hướng Phát Triển Giáo Dục Dài Hạn

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- NEC Intensive (Ôn thi chọn HSGQG dành cho học sinh thuộc đội tuyển chính thức)
- HSG Anh 8; HSG Anh 9; Chuyên Anh lên 10
- HSG Anh huyện/thành/tỉnh bậc THPT

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- **Brochure** chính thức 2025

Quý phụ huynh/quý thầy cô/các em học sinh có thể truy cập các kênh sau để cập nhật tài liệu mới nhất từ Nhà Xuân:

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- **Facebook group Springboard Connects**: Nhóm trao đổi - tư vấn học tập và tài liệu học tập với 30.000+ thành viên.

GIỚI THIỆU BỘ ĐỀ LUYỆN THI HSG QUỐC GIA TIẾNG ANH

Bộ sách **Đề Luyện Thi Chọn Học Sinh Giỏi Quốc Gia môn tiếng Anh năm 2025–2026 (Tập 2)** được biên soạn bởi đội ngũ Research & Development (R&D) – Nghiên Cứu & Phát Triển tại Springboard, chuyên nghiên cứu, phát triển và xây dựng giáo trình, tài liệu giảng dạy đáp ứng với nhu cầu ôn thi & sự thay đổi của kỳ thi.

Bộ sách được biên soạn bởi đội ngũ chuyên môn của Springboard – bao gồm các mentors từng đạt giải Nhất, giải Nhì tại kỳ thi HSG Quốc Gia, chứng chỉ IELTS từ 8.0 trở lên và được trải qua đào tạo, huấn luyện về chuyên môn Nghiên Cứu & Phát Triển giáo trình, tài liệu chuyên môn. **Đối tượng có thể sử dụng** bao gồm:

- Học sinh lớp 10–12 đang ôn luyện cho kỳ thi chọn đội tuyển Học Sinh Giỏi Quốc Gia môn tiếng Anh hàng năm
- Học sinh thuộc đội tuyển chính thức tham dự kỳ thi chọn Học Sinh Giỏi Quốc Gia môn tiếng Anh hàng năm

Điểm nổi bật của bộ sách

- Đề thi thử theo cấu trúc đề thi chọn Học Sinh Giỏi Quốc Gia
- Đáp án đầy đủ, phục vụ mục đích tự học cao
- Học sinh có thể tự học hiệu quả, hiểu sâu bản chất kiến thức thay vì chỉ luyện theo mẹo.
- Một số đề thi có kỹ năng nghe sẽ được đính kèm file audio, đăng tải tại kênh YouTube chính thức của Springboard – Lớp học Nhà Xuân.

Tất cả tài liệu biên soạn và phát hành bởi đội ngũ Springboard đều **MIỄN PHÍ**. Mọi người vui lòng **KHÔNG sử dụng cho mục đích thương mại, buôn bán** vì lợi nhuận để nhà Xuân tiếp tục phát hành tài liệu bổ ích hơn trong tương lai.

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 news report on the surge of international bookstores, 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.

- Books offer not only comfort and emotional relief but also resonate with readers on a personal level
- Yu firmly believed that members of the community would willingly contribute to sustaining her bookstore.
- The number of shops operated by immigrants has shown a noticeable rise.
- Themes of emigration and diaspora frequently recur in the works featured by Librosbookmobile.
- The demand for translated or international literature has only recently begun to emerge.

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 *color perception* for each answer in the spaces provided.

1. What is said to not be related to the physical properties of colors?

2. What phrase is used to describe the retina?

3. What are rods and cones classified as?

4. In what situations are rod cells more dominant than cones?

5. What can TV manufacturers avoid using thanks to the properties of human sights?

Part 3. For questions 11–15, listen to *two actors, Joe Alwyn and Paul Mescal*, discuss *aspects of their acting career* 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 aspect of director Lenny Abrahamson's working style did both actors appreciate the most?

- A. His ability to stay completely faithful to the script as written
- B. His structured and inflexible approach to character development
- C. His balance between intellectual depth and openness to improvisation
- D. His focus on technical precision over emotional exploration

12. How did Joe Alwyn describe the difference in preparation between *Conversation with Friends* and *Stars at Noon*?

- A. Both required deep preparation and months of character research
- B. *Stars at Noon* involved far more character backstory than *Conversations*
- C. *Conversations* was deliberate; *Stars at Noon* was more last-minute
- D. *Conversations* had no script available, whereas *Stars at Noon* was fully scripted

13. What does Alwyn suggest about Claire Denis’ directing approach in *Star at Noon*?

- A. She relies heavily on rehearsals and storyboard planning
- B. She edits in-camera, shooting scenes intuitively and non-linearly
- C. She structures scenes around the lead actor’s interpretation
- D. She prioritizes detailed exposition in dialogue

14. According to Paul, what characteristic defines Charlotte Wells’ directorial confidence in *Aftersun*?

- A. Her use of dramatic camera angles and complex staging
- B. Her faith in subtle, quiet moments to carry emotional weight
- C. Her willingness to rewrite key scenes on set
- D. Her extensive dialogue-driven approach in early scenes

15. Why was Joe surprised when he first read the *Aftersun* script?

- A. It was more comedic than expected
- B. It lacked any clear scene directions
- C. It opened with a visually daring and unconventional moment
- D. It had no role originally written for him

Your answers:

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
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Part 4. For questions 16–25, listen to part of a talk about *corporate jargons*, 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.**

Corporate jargon has roots in several historical and cultural shifts. It gained traction during the era of **(16)**_____, when returning soldiers brought military expressions like “boots on the ground” into business discussions. **(17)**_____ also became entrenched, offering metaphors like “slam dunk,” “level playing field,” and being “in your wheelhouse” to convey strategy and competence.

As industries evolved, (18)_____ emerged alongside evolving business cultures. In the 1960s advertising boom, marketing teams coined phrases like “run it up the flagpole” to gauge consumer response-an early form of (19)_____. Then, in the 1980s, the finance world introduced terms such as “leverage,” “return on investment,” and “low-hanging fruit,” using strategic shorthand to describe (20)_____ that yield quick gains.

At the turn of the millennium, tech startups further transformed workplace speech with words like “hack” and “disrupt,” challenging the (21)_____. During this period, computing lingo crept into everyday conversation-asking “Do you have the bandwidth?” or suggesting to “double-click” and “take it offline” became (22)_____.

This jargon often serves to (23)_____-phrases like “restructuring” soften news about layoffs or downsizing, and saying “take it offline” deflects direct confrontation. Using these terms can uphold existing power structures, with (24)_____ communicated through fluency in this coded language. This is known as (25)_____, which entails using buzzwords to signal authority and insider membership. Sociolinguistic research notes that those lower in hierarchy may adopt jargon to fit in, while leaders wield it to reinforce boundaries

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. After months of speculation, the company finally decided to _____ its controversial merger plans.

A. Backpedal on

B. Hammer out

C. Hinge on

D. gloss over

27. The team captain encouraged us to _____ our socks and give it one final push before the match.
- A. pick out B. tie up C. pull up D. lift off
28. The professor's lecture was full of _____ arguments that confused rather than enlightened the audience.
- A. spurious B. cogent C. trenchant D. lucid
29. The candidate's speech was a masterclass in political _____, cleverly avoiding any concrete promises.
- A. directness B. equivocation C. veracity D. coherence
30. The new intern showed great _____, quickly adapting to the high-pressure environment of the newsroom.
- A. ineptitude B. malice C. aplomb D. disdain
31. When his proposal was rejected, he didn't argue — he simply _____ it on the chin and moved on.
- A. took B. bit C. faced D. placed
32. The manager issued a stern warning, hoping to _____ any future breaches of protocol.
- A. instigate B. preclude C. exacerbate D. forego
33. Her explanation was so _____ that even the most complex theories became accessible.
- A. obtuse B. recondite C. pellucid D. elliptical
34. He regarded the awards ceremony as a mere _____, caring little for public recognition.
- A. vindication B. formality C. extravaganza D. anomaly
35. With a(n) _____ glance, she conveyed all her disapproval without saying a single word.
- A. penetrating B. indifferent C. diffident D. fleeting

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.

People in coastal areas live mainly on the _____, which allows them to earn a great deal of money from the sea products. **(CULTURE)**

36. _____

It was quite obvious that there had been a definite _____ between her and her daughter-in-law right from the beginning. **(STRANGE)**

37. _____

Osteoarthritis is a(n) _____ joint disease due to the wear and tear of joint cartilage. **(GENERATE)**

38. _____

Although some hold out hope for a sea wall and land reclamation programme, it is admittedly nothing more than a mere _____. **(STOP)**

39. _____

This book is _____. You can find information about the varieties of plants around the world here. **(EMBRACE)**

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.

[Text] example [Text].

Rhythmic skills are natural and widespread in the general population. The majority can track the beat of music and move on with it. These abilities are meaningful from a cognitive standpoint given their tight links with prominent motor and cognitive functionalities such as language and memory. When rhythmic skills are challenged by brain damage or neurodevelopmental disorders, remediation strategies based on rhythm can be considered. For example, rhythmic training can be used to improve motor performance as well as cognitive and language skills. Here, we review the games readily available in the market and access whether they are well-suited for rhythmic training. Games that train rhythm skills may

Your answers:

E.g. Error → Correction

41. _____

42. _____

43. _____

44. _____

serve as useful tools for retraining motor and cognitive functions in patients with motor or neurodevelopmental disorders (e.g., Parkinson’s disease, dyslexia, or ADHD). Our criterion were the peripheral used to capture and record the response, the type of response and the output measure. None of the existing games provides sufficient temporal precision in stimulus presentation and/or data acquisition. In addition, games do not train selectively rhythmic skills. Hence, the available music games, in their present form, are not satisfying for training rhythmic skills. Yet, some features such as the device used, the interface or the game scenario provide good indications for devising efficient training protocols. Guides are provided for devising serious music games targeting rhythmic training in the future.

45. _____

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.*

Over the past few years I’ve noticed a rise in the label “toxic” as a response to difficult or destructive behavior. Media (46)_____ from Psychology Today to Harvard Business Review run articles on how to identify or avoid toxic people. Politicians like Mitch McConnell use the term to describe their adversaries. Even academic psychologists have begun to (47)_____ up the language. The collective interest in toxicity makes (48)_____ in societal context. The MeToo (49)_____ exposed countless searing, high-profile examples of sexism in workplaces. Psychiatrists argued publicly about whether the US president - who disliked criticism and seemingly could not stop firing people - could be diagnosed (50)_____ a personality disorder. Social justice concepts like “toxic masculinity” were also absorbed into (51)_____ spaces.

Now clinicians and laypeople proliferate endless self-help and pop psychology content about how in every job interview, family of in-laws, or pool of prospective dates lurk so-called toxic people. Like many colloquial (52)_____ characterizing psychological phenomena, toxicity is unspecific. The entire premise is based on dubious science and elicits unhelpful and fatalistic behavior from people on (53)_____ sides of conflict.

The conversational idea of a toxic person can be traced to the clinical category of personality disorders, a nebulous set of diagnoses defined by supposedly lifelong, unchanging (54)_____ dysfunction. Personality pathology, though treated as legitimate in mainstream discourse, is (55)_____ debated by actual clinicians.

Your answers:

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

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

Since 2022, generative AI systems have made significant inroads into creative industries such as art, music and creative writing, areas long considered the exclusive domain of humans. Just in the realm of artistic imagery alone, human creatives have been replaced in significant numbers in industries ranging from graphics design, illustrations, to game design. Predictions of massive job loss have been confirmed by repeated waves of layoffs in 2023 and 2024 across the entertainment industry, many of which are explicitly linked to use of AI. Today, court cases and public discourse debate the legal and ethical practices of generative AI and training on copyrighted content without consent.

Generative AI models today use powerful machine learning algorithms to extract patterns from large volumes of popular content, to "learn" what is good art, what is good music, and what is compelling writing. If human tastes for art and creative content evolves over time, curated by stewards such as art critics and publishing editors, how do AI models do the same?

One answer might be that generative AI can also find new art styles or the next new genre of popular music, by scanning and filtering all possible genres of music and art. This answer assumes that the space of possible artistic styles is finite and searchable. However, in my experiences developing and optimizing tools that explore and disrupt style mimicry, we find that the number of distinctive styles in art and music are nearly infinite. How will generative AI find the next version of hip-pop, a musical genre that has transformed the music industry and influenced genres as disparate as country music? Many historians trace the origin of Hip-pop to a mixture of black, latino and Caribbean youth in the 1970s New York Bronx, protesting and expressing their rage and pain in a time of economic downward spiral. How would future AI models find ways to

identify and transform that human condition into music, so that it can connect with other humans sharing similar emotions and experiences?

Part of this is because appreciation of music and other artistic mediums is subjective, and fundamentally based on human tastes. For an AI model to understand and predict how humans do or do not appreciate a specific style, it would have to first understand human emotions. Contrast this with other domains like software engineering, where success or failure is clearly defined, usually in a design document.

Taking this perspective, it is not hard to understand why current research predicts that AI models trained on their own input will eventually collapse. If each generation of a generative AI model is

trying to approximate and mimic the complex human appreciation of an art form, then its output will be a facsimile with some amount of error. A model can reproduce the most popular styles with confidence, but much less so on the edges. With each iteration, the evolved model adds iteratively more error to the previous generation, moving further and further away from the ground truth that is subjective human standards.

Perhaps this provides the most compelling reason for why AI models must foster and protect human artists and creatives, regardless of how we feel about the ethics or legalities of generative AI training. If we allow generative AI to destroy human creative industries, by displacing jobs and discouraging aspiring artists, we are heading towards a future where art and music styles are fixed and static, and we are doomed to listen and see the same styles forever

English

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. Generative AI had contributed to widespread layoffs in creative industries by 2024.
57. Experts agree that AI's artistic styles can be finite and systematically explored.
58. Hip-pop emerged from marginalized youth in 1970s Bronx.
59. AI models can replicate human emotional depth in art.
60. Training AI on its own outputs may degrade its quality and see recursive faults.
61. AI dominance in creative fields could freeze artistic innovation.
62. Some creators have embraced AI tools in redefining artistic boundaries.

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.

Generative AI has made significant incursions into the once (63) _____ of human creativity, triggering (64) _____, across fields like design, illustration, and music. These disruptions have sparked ongoing (65) _____ debates, particularly concerning AI's use of copyrighted material without consent. While AI systems excel at stylistic (66) _____ by learning from existing content, they fall short in capturing the emotional nuance and cultural depth embedded in art, which are grounded in (67) _____. Critics argue that recursive training risks compounding deviations from this standard, leading to outputs that are increasingly detached from authentic human expression. Without the continued involvement of human artists, there is a growing concern that creative output may become (68) _____ undermining the evolution of art and culture.

63.	64.	65.	66.	67.	68.
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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.

69	
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Solarpunk architecture fits into the broader Solarpunk movement, which first emerged on Reddit in 2008 as an aesthetic and literary response to Cyberpunk and has grown rapidly in popularity since the mid-2010s. Whereas Cyberpunk has long envisioned a dystopian future rife with urban

decay, techno-authoritarian rule and inescapable pollution, Solarpunk sees the future in much more optimistic terms.

70

The ideas supporting Solarpunk might not be as far-fetched as they seem. Much in the same way that Brutalism was a clean break from architectural tradition, Solarpunk seeks to promote a drastically different approach to the architecture of the 21st century. It argues that the architectural styles of today — the ubiquitous, gleaming, sleek, minimalist towers of steel and glass, for instance — have either failed to address the climactic threats to our planet or have made things worse. Recognizing that our current ways of building are fundamentally an existential threat demands a radical new architectural philosophy, which Solarpunk seems to offer.

70

In recent years, Singaporean architecture has produced dozens of stunning projects evoking the Solarpunk ethos: the Supertree Groves, the Cloud Fountain, the Jewel Changi Airport and the Marina Bay Sands are but a few prominent examples. Such projects regularly make waves on the Solarpunk Reddit to varying degrees of approval, and some Redditors have offered mitigated praise for the city with the slogan: “Singapore minus cars = Solarpunk”.

71

Yet it’s not so much the Singapore’s high-rising biophilic green towers or indoor waterfalls replete with lush jungles that contribute to the city’s green credentials. It’s instead the city’s half-century long list of green policies that do most of the heavy lifting. Singapore’s Green Plan 2030, for instance, sets goals like setting aside 50% more land for green spaces and planting one million more trees throughout the city over the next decade.

72

Therein lies the biggest pitfall of Solarpunk. The movement risks being whittled down to an aesthetic dimension, which in turn will undermine its own ecological philosophy. Solarpunk risks becoming a style without principles; a “green” architecture without green policies. Worse still, the movement could easily be co-opted by developers eager on giving the impression that their projects are environmentally sustainable while they continue to rely to carbon-emitting materials and energy-intensive design principles..

73

For Solarpunk to become a viable architectural movement, it must start by relying less on its futuristic visual aesthetic. Though the Solarpunk aesthetic of today is certainly inspiring and evokes an optimistic vision of the future, it can easily turn into a cynical one if the style becomes appropriated by the very capitalistic interests the movement criticizes. [Solarpunks](#) should instead put more focus on the grassroots; this includes promoting local environmental policies and incentivizing smaller-scale projects in which individuals — rather than governments or big corporations — can take part. The results should center on the ecological footprint of such initiatives, regardless of whether the final product is pleasing to the eye or looks futuristic.

74

As the movement currently stands, Solarpunk architecture largely exists online; the majority is utopian eye-candy in the same vein as flying cars and space colonies on Mars. It’s a great way to picture what our future could look like, but it offers virtually nothing in terms of present-day solutions (other than being an escapist reprieve from climate change-induced anxieties — and there is something to be said about that). While we can’t expect Solarpunk buildings to sprout up in most cities anytime soon, we need to change the discussion so that when they do, the towers actually deliver on the promises implied by their aesthetic.

Missing Paragraphs:

A.	The data seems to support the ecological benefits of such architecture. Singapore regularly ranks in the top 10 greenest cities in the world. The city has greatly benefitted from the increased presence of nature in the city, reducing urban heat island effect, improving water management and increasing biodiversity, among other things
B.	The movement could also engage with cutting-edge research into green technologies that complement the green-tower-in-the-sky aesthetic. For example, at first glance, renderings of SOM's Urban Sequoia project appear to be textbook examples of the Solarpunk aesthetic. However, Yasemin Kologlu, architect and sustainable design leader at SOM, has spent years leading the research that is represented in the renderings. The utopian visions of Urban Sequoia envision an architecture that employs bio materials, nature-based micro algae systems for carbon sequestration and technologies that can transform their buildings into sources of biofuel. When backed by research, the Solarpunk aesthetic can be an effective tool for raising money and attracting clients to put the nascent technologies into action.
C.	It's difficult to evaluate an architectural movement that exists almost entirely in conceptual terms. At present, the closest thing stylistically to Solarpunk architecture might be Singapore's Garden City: a political initiative introduced by Lee Kuan Yew in 1967 to transform the dense city into an urban environment brimming with greenery.
D.	These initiatives are perhaps less visually arresting than designing a vertical jungle on a new skyscraper, but they do much more to bring the city closer to its sustainability goals. As for Singapore's Solarpunk-like projects, they are more a symbol of the city's environmental successes than a significant contributor to them.
E.	Solarpunk visualizes a world detached from capitalist incentives, where humans use high tech and low tech in equal measures as tools for social and economic equality, and urban environments are designed to restore natural ecosystems threatened by climate

	<p>change. Projects by architects like Vincent Callebaut, a judge for Architizer’s One Rendering Competition, Luc Schuiten and, more recently, by AI-generated images have pushed these ideas into the mainstream, demonstrating the potential Solarpunk has as a legitimate architectural movement.</p>
F.	<p>If you’ve spent some time in online architectural forums recently, maybe you’ve stumbled upon images of “Solarpunk architecture.” Generally characterized by grand, swooping biophilic structures replete with vertical forests and solar panels, and in which people live in happy harmony with nature, these renderings evoke a utopian future that might be mistaken for science fiction. But the impressive graphics belie a serious political and social movement intent on taking architecture into a radically greener, more sustainable direction.</p>
G.	<p>As one Redditor put it more bluntly: “We need more emphasis on the “punk” part of Solarpunk. Next thing you know, some fortune 500 company will latch on to the Solarpunk theme, and turn it into “SolarPop” or some other greenwashed bullshit.” There is also an irony to the fact that most renderings visualizing Solarpunk architecture could only ever be realistically undertaken by the world’s wealthiest countries and corporations.</p>
H.	<p>Amid plans for towering vertical forests dripping with solar panels and microalgae façades, one could almost imagine a future where urban pigeons—not people—become the true Solarpunks, nesting among cyano-bacterial blooms in self-cleaning glass canopies. These feathered eco-engineers would, unknowingly, prune biophilic structures, turning façades into living artworks that photosynthesize, albeit with a distinct cooing soundtrack. Somehow, though, no one seems to have pitched a Solarpunk pigeon incubator to Architizer—perhaps that’s the next frontier of “punk.”</p>

Part 4. For questions 76-85, read a passage on plastic problems across countries 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. Plastic has transformed the retail sector. The introduction of plastic containers and packaging has made the production and distribution of goods cheaper and more convenient, which has undoubtedly benefitted manufacturers, retailers and consumers. However, the widespread adoption of plastic has also been a major factor in the development of linear economic systems. A linear economy is a system based around a “take-make-discard” approach to resource management. In other words, raw materials are collected to produce objects which are only used once before being discarded. The vast majority of this waste cannot be recycled, and, in most cases, it is disposed of in ways which can harm the environment. And as societies have embraced single-use plastic, the resultant waste has become a serious problem which simply cannot be ignored.
2. It’s clear that plastic waste endangers the lives of both land-based and marine wildlife. Toxic chemicals in plastic are extremely dangerous when ingested, which is something many creatures do by accident, as they often mistake small plastic items in their habitats for food. Discarded plastic packaging poses another threat to small animals since these creatures may get trapped inside plastic wrappers, and become unable to escape. Plastic waste also blocks drains and sewage systems, increasing the risk of flooding. These issues, along with the associated problems of secondary microplastic pollution, litter and carbon emissions, are driving many campaigners to demand a plastic-free future.
3. Many governments are attempting to address the issue by focusing on the thin, single-use plastic bags provided by shops and supermarkets. Approximately 130 countries have already restricted the use of these bags, presumably because it is one of the simplest ways to reduce the amount of plastic in the environment. Over 80 countries have implemented some form of plastic bag ban, while many others now impose a plastic bag tax, meaning that shops are required to sell the bags to customers rather than provide them free of charge. In many instances, governments use the revenue raised from the sale of plastic bags to fund environmental programmes such as cleaning up coastal areas.
4. As described in a report published by the United Nations, developing countries lead the way in terms of implementing complete plastic bag bans. Of course, it’s worth noting that many of these countries are directly affected by plastic waste mismanagement. In fact, some of them are dealing not only with their own domestic plastic waste, but also the

plastic waste coming from other parts of the world. As a result, these countries are already experiencing consequences such as serious flooding. By contrast, affluent countries, many of which export their plastic waste abroad, often impose less stringent measures. But regardless of why governments choose one particular measure over another, the question remains: are the policies working?

5. Many countries have reported substantial reductions in plastic bag usage after implementing restrictions. For instance, plastic bag bans in several municipalities in the Philippines have contributed to decreases in overall plastic waste collection. In addition, over 90% of citizens now use their own reusable grocery bags there. Likewise, after introducing charges for plastic bags, Portugal reported a 74% reduction in the consumption of plastic bags, along with a 61% increase in the usage of re-usable plastic bags. Such statistics are encouraging, but there are notable exceptions where measures have been less successful.
6. Research has found that India did not enforce its ban effectively, which meant its impact on consumers' actions was minimal. In California, local regulations meant that retailers switched from providing plastic bags to offering paper bags. This actually encouraged people to use more bags to pack their groceries, leading to more waste overall.
7. Some environmentalists are unconvinced that targeting single-use bags is the right strategy to tackle global plastic waste. Although a paper published by Lund University states that a trillion of these bags are used each year, consumption of other types of single-use plastic is much higher. In fact, many studies have shown that plastic bags are responsible for a relatively small proportion of the plastic waste currently polluting the planet. Therefore, unless the main sources of plastic waste are regulated, we are unlikely to see any benefits from controlling plastic bag usage. As with any environmental issue, individual responsibility is crucial in the fight against plastic waste.

76. Which of the following best reflects the author's critique of the linear economic system promoted by plastic use?

- A. It is economically unsustainable and discourages innovation in plastic manufacturing.
- B. It prioritizes environmental protection at the cost of economic efficiency.

C. It facilitates convenience and affordability at the expense of long-term ecological sustainability.

D. It relies too heavily on reusable packaging systems that are difficult to manage.

77. Why does the passage emphasize the dangers of plastic waste to animals and ecosystems?

A. To argue that the environmental costs of plastic use outweigh its economic benefits.

B. To illustrate how government inaction has led to the extinction of multiple species

C. To show how single-use plastics are more hazardous than multi-use alternatives.

D. To stress that wildlife should be prioritized over human convenience in policy-making.

78. Based on the text, why are single-use plastic bags a common target for policy intervention?

A. They are the primary contributors to marine pollution and microplastics.

B. Their restriction is politically expedient and easy to implement at scale.

C. They are more profitable for retailers than other packaging options.

D. Their use is already declining, so bans reinforce existing trends.

79. What is implied about developing nations in relation to global plastic waste management?

A. They have historically contributed the most plastic waste per capita.

B. They take on the burden of global plastic waste while leading in restriction policies.

C. Their governments are resistant to foreign waste due to cultural differences.

D. They have received international funding for plastic recycling infrastructure.

80. Which of the following sentences best summarizes the meaning of the underlined text in paragraph 4?

A. Developing countries are struggling with plastic waste due to poor domestic policies, though they are unaffected by foreign contributions

B. Developing nations are not only coping with their internally generated waste but are also burdened by imported plastic waste.

C. Mismanagement of plastic waste is a growing problem in industrial nations, especially those that export waste abroad

D. Most developing nations handle their plastic waste effectively, but some choose to import additional waste.

81. What conclusion can be drawn from the statistical data presented on Portugal's policy outcomes?

- A. Drastic environmental change is possible even without legislation.
- B. Consumer habits respond rapidly to governmental enforcement and pricing mechanisms.
- C. People only switch to reusables when plastic bags are completely banned.
- D. Taxing bags is ineffective compared to completely removing them from circulation.

82. What unintended consequence is highlighted through the California case study?

- A. The environmental impact of switching materials without behavioral change.
- B. The health risks of paper bags contaminated with food waste.
- C. The decline of consumer trust in government regulations.
- D. The rise of illegal bag trade after the ban was enacted.

83. Why do some environmentalists question the focus on banning single-use plastic bags?

- A. They believe such policies were motivated more by media pressure than environmental science.
- B. They argue these bags are among the least significant contributors to overall plastic waste.
- C. They see bans as disproportionately affecting low-income households.
- D. They worry bans will increase the use of even more harmful alternatives.

84. Why is the statistic regarding a trillion plastic bags annually used treated with caution in the text?

- A. Because it contradicts the lower-than-expected environmental footprint of plastic bags.
- B. Because, despite the figure's size, the actual environmental harm they cause is comparatively small.
- C. Because this statistic has been disputed by major environmental organizations.
- D. Because it doesn't take into account biodegradable plastics and compostable alternatives.

85. What is the central message the author conveys about solving the plastic crisis?

- A. True progress requires a combination of government regulation, consumer behavior change, and systemic reform.
- B. Only top-down government bans can create a meaningful shift in plastic consumption.
- C. The focus should remain on banning specific products rather than overhauling systems.
- D. Success lies primarily in reducing the consumption of paper and other packaging substitutes.

76.

77.

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85.

Part 5. The passage below consists of seven 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.

‘Such a fun way to consume music’: why sales of the ‘obsolete’ cassette are soaring

A. ‘You have no way to skip tracks, which makes it more special

“Buying a cassette direct from an independent artist on platforms such as Bandcamp is such a fun way to consume music. Often produced in very small runs, it is nice to receive something though the post that is relatively scarce. In these days of Spotify funnelling payments only to the superstars, it feels good to support small artists and labels. I love vinyl, too, but the magic of a cassette is that you have no way to skip tracks; you press ‘play’ and listen from start to finish with only the satisfying thud of one side ending to interrupt the experience. The noisy, tactile controls of a cassette player are the perfect tonic to the ways most of us consume media throughout the day, making it more of a special event and something to look forward to.” **Dan White, 40, Norwich**

B. ‘My 12-year-old daughter listens to Bon Jovi on hers’

“There seems to be a huge 90s revival in fashion and classic TV from when I was a kid. My daughter, 12, has had a cassette player bought for her birthday, and is now listening to all the music I did growing up. Ebay and local record stores have been great for finding 90s music and she loves my old mix tapes. She listens to all kinds of music, but she asked specifically for Bon Jovi and Aerosmith tapes, which we bought for her birthday. She also wants Guns N’ Roses, Abba, East 17, but we haven’t got those yet. All her friends loved it when she took it to school.” **Elisabeth Stagg, 38, Upminster**

C. *‘They have more depth than CDs – I know this is technically wrong’*

“I listen to cassettes daily. And vinyl, and CDs. It depends what I want to listen to and which format it’s on. Cassettes, though – and I know this is technically wrong – sound as though they have much more depth than the CDs. I’ve tried one after the other and believe I can hear a better sound from the cassette. With a twin cassette deck hooked up to my 1986 Bang & Olufsen system, it means I have continuous music from two tapes playing both sides on a loop – unlike the single CD player or a vinyl record, which you have to turn over when one side is finished.” **Tim, 50, Wiltshire**

D. *‘My co-worker sneaks into my office and changes the music to prog rock’*

“After finally getting rid of my car with a cassette player in it, I’ve been given a radio cassette player, which is in my office with my old cassettes, from the Stranglers, the Kinks, and the Beatles to the LA’s, Pogues, Clannad and, most importantly, AC/DC, which I used to fall asleep to in my youth.

My big brother died a few years ago and I have some of the tapes of his that I nicked from him when we were teenagers, such as Thin Lizzy, Deep Purple and UFO – he first got me into rock and metal. My co-worker is in the office next door, but I always know when he’s been sneaking in and working at my desk when the music has been surreptitiously changed to his prog rock stuff, which I no longer approve of. The machine I’m currently using was supplied by my partner and has extra big buttons designed for sight-impaired folk, or elderly folk such as myself.” **Carole, 55, Huddersfield**

E. *‘Recording our music on tape made us take our jam sessions more seriously’*

“The first album I ever bought was on cassette: Dire Straits, Brothers in Arms. Cassettes were my main way to consume music from childhood until I bought a Creative Zen MP3 player in the late noughties.

I like to create my own music and collaborate with others. After rediscovering the atmosphere and sound of cassettes, I abandoned recording on to my laptop or PC and began using straight-to-audio cassettes. I found this focused jam sessions. No longer would me and my friends just endlessly twiddle about for hours thinking, ‘we’ll sift through it all later’. Instead, there was

physical tape being consumed and we only had so much of it, so we took the sessions more seriously. It wasn't the intention when we started, but was a happy side-effect of recording on tape." **Charles Daniels, 45, Oxford**

Adapted from article by Chris Stokel-Walker - the New Scientist

In which sections are the following mentioned?

Your answers:

- expresses that supporting smaller artists is one of the key motivations behind their choice to buy cassettes? 86. _____
- refers to a nostalgic bond with cassettes linked to a loved one's musical influence? 87. _____
- points out that using cassette tapes changed the dynamics of collaboration during music-making? 88. _____
- believes cassette recordings feel sonically richer, despite acknowledging this may be technically incorrect? 89. _____
- talks about the impact of physical limitations on tape as a positive constraint in creative work? 90. _____
- notes that many young people have embraced cassette tapes as part of a broader retro trend? 91. _____
- mentions deliberately listening to an entire album without skipping, making the experience more ceremonial? 92. _____
- humorously describes how their tape selections are sometimes altered without permission? 93. _____
- prefers cassettes over other formats because of the uninterrupted looping capability they offer? 94. _____
- actively seeks out specific cassette recordings based on their someone's musical preferences? 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.

We environmentalists spend our lives thinking about ways the world will end. There's nowhere that I see doomer culture more vocal than on my home turf.

With leading activists like Roger Hallam, co-founder of the popular climate protest movement Extinction Rebellion, telling young people that they “face annihilation,” it's no surprise so many of them feel terrified. In a large recent international survey on youth attitudes toward climate change, more than half said that “humanity is doomed” and three-quarters said the future is frightening. Young people have good reasons to worry about our ability to tackle climate change, but this level of despair should be alarming to anyone who cares about the well-being of future generations — which is, after all, what the climate movement is all about.

As the lead researcher for Our World in Data, an organization that aims to make data on the world's biggest problems accessible and understandable, I've written extensively on the reasons to be optimistic about the future. The prices of solar and wind power, as well as of batteries for storing low-carbon energy, have all plunged. Global deforestation peaked decades ago and has been slowly declining. Sales of new gas and diesel cars are now falling. Coal is starting to die in many countries. Government commitments are getting closer to limiting global warming to 2°C. Deaths from natural disasters — despite what news about climate change-related fires and hurricanes might appear to suggest — are a fraction of what they used to be. The list goes on.

But here, I don't want to talk about whether pessimism is accurate. I want to focus on whether it's useful. People might defend doomsday scenarios as the wake-up call that society needs. If they're exaggerated, so what? They might be the crucial catalyst that gets us to act on climate change.

Setting aside the moral problem of stretching the truth, this claim is wrong. Scaring people into action doesn't work. That's true not just for climate change, air pollution, and biodiversity loss, but for almost any issue we can think of. We need optimism to make progress — yet that alone isn't enough. To contend with environmental crises and make life better for everyone, we need the right kind of optimists: those who recognize that the world will only improve if we fight for it.

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Part 2. *The chart and table below show **information on the vehicle registration in Australia in 2010**. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant. You should write about 150 words.*

The table gives information about five types of vehicles registered in Australia in 2010, 2012 and 2014. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

Types of vehicles	2010	2012	2014	% change (from 2010 to 2014)
Passenger vehicles	11800000	12700000	13000000	10.20%
Commercial vehicles	2300000	2600000	2700000	17.40%
Motorcycles	540000	680000	709000	30.80%
Heavy trucks	384000	390000	416000	8.30%
Light trucks	106000	124000	131000	23.50%

Part 3. Write an essay of about 350 words on the following topic.

Religion is part of culture. It is part and parcel of many people's life. It affects people's beliefs and a country's decisions in diplomacy. That's why religion is said to be the root of almost any war throughout history.

What is your opinion of this saying? Present your view in 350 words.

Springboard
English

Springboard
English

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

- GOOD LUCK, AND DO NOT CRY -

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 **19** 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 news report on the reopening of international bookstores**, 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..

1. True	2. False	3. True	4. Not given	5. False
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Part 2. Write **NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS** taken from the recording talking about **color perception** for each answer in the spaces provided.

- Human perception
- Paper-thin layer of cells
- light -detecting cells
- Low light conditions

5. Infinitely many colors

Part 3. For questions 11–15, listen to *two actors, Joe Alwyn and Paul Mescal*, discuss *aspects of their acting career* 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. C	12. C	13. B	14. B	15. C
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Part 4. For questions 16–25, listen to part of a talk about *corporate jargons*, 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.

16. Post-war economic prosperity	17. Sports terminology
18. Job-specific jargon	19. Marketing messages
20. Relatively easy changes	21. Status quo
22. Common office lingo	23. Cloak difficult information
24. Power and status	25. Status signaling

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. A	27. C	28. A	29. B	30. C
31. A	32. B	33. C	34. B	35. A

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.

People in coastal areas live mainly on the _____, which allows them to earn a great deal of money from the sea products. **(CULTURE)**

It was quite obvious that there had been a definite _____ between her and her daughter-in-law right from the beginning. **(STRANGE)**

Osteoarthritis is a(n) _____ joint disease due to the wear and tear of joint cartilage. **(GENERATE)**

Although some hold out hope for a sea wall and land reclamation programme, it is admittedly nothing more than a mere _____. **(STOP)**

This book is _____. You can find information about the varieties of plants around the world here. **(EMBRACE)**

Your answers:

36. Aquaculture

37. Estrangement

38. degenerative

39. stopgap

40. all-embracing

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.

Rhythmic skills are natural and widespread in the general population. The majority can track the beat of music and move on with it. These abilities are meaningful from a cognitive standpoint given their tight links with prominent motor and cognitive functionalities such as language and memory. When rhythmic skills are challenged by brain damage or neurodevelopmental disorders, remediation strategies based on rhythm can be considered. For example, rhythmic training can be used to improve motor performance as well as cognitive and language skills. Here, we review the games readily available in the market and access whether they are well-suited for rhythmic training. Games that train rhythm skills may serve as useful tools for retraining motor and cognitive functions in

Your answers:

41. Move on -> move along

42. Functionalities -> functions

43. Access -> assess

44. Criterion -> criteria

45. Guides -> guidelines

patients with motor or neurodevelopmental disorders (e.g., Parkinson's disease, dyslexia, or ADHD). Our criterion were the peripheral used to capture and record the response, the type of response and the output measure. None of the existing games provides sufficient temporal precision in stimulus presentation and/or data acquisition. In addition, games do not train selectively rhythmic skills. Hence, the available music games, in their present form, are not satisfying for

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.*

46. outlets	47. take	48. sense	49. movement	50. with
51. more	52. terms	53. both	54. Interpersonal	55. hotly

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

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. True

57. False

58. True

59. False

60. True

61. True

62. Not given

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.

63. Exclusive domain

64. Massive job loss

65. Legal and ethical

66. mimicry
67. Subjective human standard
68. Fixed and static

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.*

69. F	70. E	71. C	72. A	73. D	74. G	75. B
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Part 4. *For questions 76-85, read a passage on plastic problems across countries 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.*

76. C	77. A	78. B	79. B	80. C
81. B	82. A	83. B	84. B	85. A

Part 5. *The passage below consists of seven 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.*

86. A	87. D	88. E	89. C	90. E
91. B	92. A	93. D	94. C	95. B

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.*

Suggested Outline & Information Grouping

Part 2. *The chart and table below show [Overview of the chart/table information]. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant. You should write about 150 words.*

Suggested Outline & Information Grouping

Part 3. *Write an essay of about 350 words on the following topic.*

Suggested Outline

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

- GOOD LUCK, AND DO NOT CRY -

Springboard
English

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 **24** 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 questions 1 – 5, listen to two friends, Kathy and Derek, talking about films based on 19th century novels, and decide whether the following are mentioned by only one of the speakers, or by both of them. In the corresponding numbered boxes provided,

write

K for Kathy;

D for Derek;

B for Both, where both of the speakers agree.

1. In the film *Oliver Twist*, it was hard to think of the actors as the characters they were playing
2. Film adaptations of the 1930s and 40s reflect their own time
3. Film adaptation made nowadays may reflect current attitudes
4. The actor sometimes does not match your idea of the character
5. The author's viewpoint should be evident in film adaptations

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Part 2. For questions 6 – 10, listen to a news report on global environmental events and match each number (6 – 10) in Column A with one letter (A – J) in Column B to make a correct statement according to what is stated or implied by the speaker(s). Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Column A	Column B
6. Global temperature trends	A. expected to diverge from multilateral climate agreements. B. approach a record-breaking threshold that may redefine what is considered “normal”.
7. The United States under Trump’s leadership	C. Has seen intensified military activity contributing to long-term ecological degradation. D. May rely increasingly on untested geoengineering solutions to meet mitigation goals.
8. Climate-conflict connection	E. Faces the dilemma of achieving energy transition while still subsidizing fossil fuel industries. F. poised to re-evaluate its commitment to emissions reduction following domestic political changes.
9. Climate policy developments	G. expected to roll out carbon surveillance systems with precision comparable to military satellite tracking.
10. Technological responses to emissions	H. under pressure to convert pledges into binding measures amid widespread climate finance gaps. I. launched a new generation of ocean buoys to monitor La Niña and El Niño events. J. May expect atmospheric gases tracked in real time from orbit.

Your answers:

6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
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Part 3. For questions 11–15, listen to Captain Walker, discussing air turbulence 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.** According to Captain Walker, what makes clear-air turbulence particularly difficult for pilots to manage?
- A. It is usually accompanied by strong tailwinds and hail.
 - B. It occurs in complete silence, making it hard to notice.
 - C. It is invisible and caused by abrupt shifts in wind shear.
 - D. It only occurs during descent and approach phases of flight.
- 12.** What role does the jet stream play in generating turbulence, as described in the video?
- A. It generates turbulence only at low altitudes due to surface friction.
 - B. It facilitates smoother flights by aligning with the plane's heading.
 - C. It creates shear zones that can lead to destabilizing movements.
 - D. It disperses thermals which prevent turbulence from forming.
- 13.** Why are cumulonimbus clouds particularly hazardous to aircraft?
- A. They are typically associated with high wind speeds near runways.
 - B. They contain vertical air movements and potential solid hazards.
 - C. They often contain hailing and low visibility zones.
 - D. They prevent onboard weather radar from functioning correctly.
- 14.** Which of the following best reflects how mechanical turbulence differs from the other types?
- A. It occurs exclusively due to pilot error during descent.
 - B. It arises from human-made disruptions at high altitudes.
 - C. It stems from air interacting with surface obstacles like terrain or buildings.
 - D. It is the only type unaffected by wind direction or speed.
- 15.** Based on the pilot's explanations, what is a common strategy for minimizing turbulence across all three types discussed?
- A. Engaging autopilot systems calibrated for airspeed variability
 - B. Relying on predictive radar to chart storm cells and turbulence zones
 - C. Adjusting altitude to find more stable air outside turbulent layers
 - D. Speeding up to minimize the duration of exposure to rough air

Your answers:

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
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Part 4. For questions 16–25, listen to a talk about Airplane black boxes, and complete the following summary. Write NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER taken from the recording for each blank. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

In November 2001, shortly after takeoff from JFK Airport, an airplane crashed into a Queens neighborhood, killing everyone on board and several people on the ground. Given the proximity to 9/11, many feared it was another act of **(16)** _____. However, the truth was discovered through the aircraft's black boxes.

Though commonly called black boxes, the devices are actually bright orange and consist of two components: the cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder. The concept originated after the **(17)** _____ experienced multiple crashes, prompting a need to better understand in-flight failures. Over time, technology advanced from foil to magnetic tape, and eventually to **(18)** _____, making today's devices more durable and precise.

The cockpit voice recorder stores the **(19)** _____, including all communication from the pilots' headsets. This, along with flight data, can be crucial in understanding crashes. In the case of Flight 587, the cockpit recording revealed the aircraft encountered **(20)** _____ from a larger plane ahead. But what followed made the situation worse.

Analysis of the flight data uncovered a pattern of **(21)** _____ by the copilot—forceful actions on the pedals controlling yaw. While planes are designed to maneuver through **(22)** _____, excessive use of the rudder can overstress the aircraft's structure. In this incident, it caused the vertical stabilizer to break off.

Black boxes are engineered to withstand extreme conditions and are typically installed in the tail section. They emit locator signals from underwater—up to **(23)** _____. —to aid recovery efforts. Still, as shown by the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, some recorders are never found.

To address this, some propose transmitting flight data in real time to **(24)** _____, reducing reliance on physical recovery. Though **(25)** _____ concerns remain, such advancements may redefine the future of flight investigation.

Your answers:

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

II. LEXICO – GRAMMAR (2.0 points)

Part 1. For questions 26 – 35, read the passage below and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits each space. Write the letter A, B, C, or D in the numbered boxes provided.

Harboring feelings of resentment is more common than people probably care to admit — it's the weapon we silently **(1)** _____ against partners, friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors for wrongs, either real or perceived, that we can't seem to forgive.

Resentment is often described as festering or simmering, probably because it doesn't just come out of nowhere. According to psychologists, envy is wanting what someone else has, while jealousy is the fear of losing what you have **(2)** _____. These feelings, though fleeting, can accumulate over time into resentment, which is often a reaction to **(3)** _____ or being made to feel inadequate.

Hear a friend discuss their lavish lifestyle long enough and mild annoyance and envy might slowly **(4)** _____ resentment. Unlike envy and jealousy, which may push us to act, resentment tends to be something we **(5)** _____.

When people hold onto resentment, they often avoid speaking up, assuming the other person is to blame — “If they didn't behave this way, I wouldn't feel like this.” But staying silent out of fear they might get angry or **(6)** _____ the relationship only allows bitterness to grow.

Eventually, what began as discomfort turns into something deeper and more toxic. And once this state of affairs has lasted long enough, **(7)** _____ can take root.

While some people suppress resentment for the sake of peace, unspoken bitterness has been shown to harm well-being. That's why psychologists recommend naming the emotion and exploring ways to **(8)** _____ it.

Doing so doesn't mean forgetting what happened, but it may open a path toward reconciliation. After all, no relationship is free of conflict — it's whether we process resentment that determines if trust **(9)** _____ or begins to break down.

If left unresolved, resentment can distort how we interpret even small interactions, leading to increasing **(10)** _____ in everyday communication.

26. A. wield B. Lean C. Carry D. Throw
27. A. To someone else B. To another person C. To be taken D. To another
28. A. Being treated unfairly B. Treating unfairly
C. Treated unfairness D. Unfair to be treated
29. A. Shift over to B. Curdle into C. Melt down into D. Blur into
30. A. Get stuck in B. Are stuck for C. Stay in D. Keep at
31. A. withdraw from B. Let go of C. Lash out on D. Walk away from
32. A. Long-lasting bitterness B. Underlying suspicion
C. Emotional damage D. Persistent dissatisfaction
33. A. Release or reframe B. Act or fight
C. Revenge or relieve D. Admit and suppress
34. A. Restores B. Reaffirms C. Rebuilds D. Erodes
35. A. Friction B. Abrasion C. Attrition D. Erosion

Your answers:

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

Part 2. For questions 36 – 40, read the passage, then fill in each of the numbered spaces with the correct form of the words given in the box. Write your answers in the numbered boxes provided. There are **FOUR** words that you do not need to use. The first one, (0), has been done as an example.

optimism	want	deliberate	equation	bore
reflect	max	sole	tameless	massive

Since the (0) **mass** adoption of smartphones, most people have been walking around with the psychological (36)_____ of a shock button in their pocket: a device that can neutralise boredom in an instant, even if it's not all that good for us. We often reach for our phones for something to do during moments of quiet or (37)_____, or to distract us late at night when anxious thoughts creep in. This isn't *always* a bad thing – too much rumination is unhealthy – but it's worth reflecting on the fact that avoiding (38)_____ mind-wandering is easier than it's ever been, and that most people distract themselves in very similar, screen-based ways.

Smartphones have also increased the pressure to use our time productively, to (39)_____ every minute of our lives. If once a harried commuter might have been forced to stare out of the window or read a book on the train to work, now they may try to catch up on their emails to avoid feeling guilty and inefficient. To sit and do nothing is seen as a waste of time. But that ignores the fact that when we're doing nothing we're often thinking quite hard. What happens to all those difficult or (40)_____ half-thoughts that start to form in the milliseconds before we dig into our pockets and pull out our phones again?

Your answers:

36.	37.	38.	39.	40.
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Part 3. The passage below contains **FIVE** grammatical mistakes. For questions 41 – 45, **UNDERLINE** the mistakes and **WRITE THEIR CORRECT FORMS** in the numbered boxes provided in the column on the right. The first one has been done as an example.

Eternal life seems like the sweetest of sweet deals. You get to go everywhere, do everything, and collect stories you'll be telling at parties for millennium. But before you sign up for immortality, be forewarned: It isn't

Your answers:

E.g. Error → Correction

41. _____

all it's cracked up to be. Even in the comparatively sweet world of fiction there are plenty of souls embittered by immortality. In the words of Queen, *who wants to live forever?* Not these folks. And here's why.

42. _____

The things you have to go through to live forever make you wonder if they're worth the effort. Vampirism is the most obvious example: Sure, you get eternal life plus super-powers (superhuman strength, turning into a bat, the currently popular Sunlight Sparkle), but you have to drink all that darn blood. In the Guillermo del Toro film *Cronos*, people achieve immortality through a device invented by a medieval alchemist—but they develop a vampiric need of fresh blood. In the 1960 B-movie *The Leech Woman*, a woman keeps herself young through a secret African formulae of orchid pollen and pineal juice. She has to keep killing men for their pineal glands, which you can only do for so long before the cops get suspicious. Their version of immortality isn't a long, sumptuous meal, but a hamster wheel, which speed ever faster but impossible to jump off of.

43. _____

44. _____

45. _____

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.

Tyrannosaurs might (46)_____ images of serrated teeth, massive bodies and powerful tails, but their most recent ancestor yet discovered was a slender, fleet-footed beast of (47)_____ more modest size.

Experts say the new species – identified from two partial skeletons – helps fill a (48)_____ in the fossil record between the small, early ancestors of tyrannosaurs and the huge predators that evolved later. “They’re almost the (49)_____ ancestor of the family that we call tyrannosaurs,” said Dr Darla Zelenitsky, co-author of the study at the University of Calgary.

Writing in the journal *Nature*, Zelenitsky and colleagues report how they re-examined fossils (50)_____ in Mongolia in the early 1970s, and now held at the Institute of Paleontology of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences.

The team discovered the 86m-year-old skeletons did not belong to the tyrannosaur ancestor they had previously been (51)_____ with, an enigmatic creature called *Alectrosaurus olseni*.

Instead, they (52)_____ to a new species the researchers have called *Khankhuuluu Mongoliensis*, (53)_____ “Prince of Dragons of Mongolia”. The results revealed *Khankhuuluu*, or closely related species in Asia, migrated to North America where tyrannosaurs subsequently (54)_____. Some tyrannosaurs later moved back into Asia, where the large *Tarbosaurus* and smaller Pinocchio rexes emerged. Finally, some huge species of tyrannosaur migrated back to North America, giving (55)_____ to *T rex* and other enormous predators.

Your answers:

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

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

They are inaudible and unpronounceable. They do not exist in spoken English—they are at best a pause rather than a presence: no one (with apologies to those listening to this article in our audio edition) could describe the sound of “”. Yet their increasing absence is causing conniptions.

Open Sally Rooney’s new novel “Intermezzo” and, on the first page, a character says: “Hello, Peter.” Except, as this is a novel by Ms Rooney, she does not say: “Hello, Peter.” She says: Hello, Peter. With no inverted commas. Peter then asks, “May I come in?” Except, again, he does not. Instead he asks, May I come in?

The inverted comma is falling out of fashion. Ms Rooney discarded it for her last three bestselling books. This year’s Booker Prize winner, “Orbital”, didn’t use them either. Our number-crunching reveals a dramatic decline: in the 1970s, 94% of Booker-nominated novels used them, compared with just 72% in the past decade. They are sighted less and slighted more: novelists have called them “weird” and an “obstruction”. In certain sorts of fiction the inverted comma is, says Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, a professor of English at the University of Oxford, “gradually being removed”.

Quite why is not clear. Most blame James Joyce, a glum Irish writer. Joyce called the inverted commas “perverted commas” and dropped them for his 1922 novel “Ulysses”. Inverted commas started to be seen as a colonial, even patriarchal, imposition on a piece of text. Instead, to

indicate speech, a writer like Joyce adopted the indentation and em-dash of the French (evidently the more artistically appealing imperialist). To this day the commas' absence is associated with edginess and Irishness.

Language changes. Open an old book and it will be littered with an antique ink-splatter of marks—the ¶, the §—that are mostly meaningless to modern eyes. What is surprising is the emotion all this engenders. Oxford commas invite outrage; semicolons invoke scorn; one 2003 grammar book suggested that a misplaced apostrophe should trigger emotions “similar to the stages of bereavement”. Naturally it was a bestseller.

Partly this is pure snobbery: punctuation is not merely a semantic marker but a social one. Largely inaudible and completely invisible in everyday speech, its correct usage can be acquired only through years of (often expensive) education. Punctuation thus marks not just texts but people. Those who know, or think they know, whether a full stop should go inside or outside inverted commas join an elite intellectual aristocracy. Though it is best not to brag about it: the line between stupidity and pretension is fine. “Do not use semicolons,” warned Kurt Vonnegut. “All they do is show you’ve been to college.”

But partly people also get cross because punctuation is genuinely helpful. Writers often forget that reading is hard, says Adam Mars-Jones, a novelist. If a piece of writing has not had “every single screw tightened”—every word well-chosen, every piece of punctuation in place—the reader can struggle. Inverted commas help as they envelop a quotation in a crisp clasp of reassuring accuracy, or add obvious snark.

Their absence, by contrast, casts a post-modern pall of uncertainty over the words. Were these really the words spoken, you wonder? That is partly the point. If a novel is “written in the first person”, Ms Rooney has said, “isn’t it all a quotation?” She does not “see any need for them”. Or as one should perhaps now write, does not see any need for them.

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. Some writers see the abandonment of inverted commas as a form of resistance to traditional literary norms

57. James Joyce criticized punctuation in general as being too rigid.

58. The visual impact of older books is more striking due to the abundance of now-obsolete symbols.

59. Oxford commas are rarely used in contemporary literary fiction.

60. Punctuation is sometimes used as a subtle indicator of a person's educational background.

61. Adam Mars-Jones believes that omitting punctuation improves the reading experience.

56.	57.	58.	59.	60.	61.
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*For questions 62-69 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 decline of inverted commas in literary fiction reflects more than a stylistic trend—it taps into deeper cultural and ideological undercurrents. Once dismissed by James Joyce as a **(62)** _____ imposition on language, quotation marks have come to symbolize constraint for some writers. This trend, however, ironically draws on **(63)** _____ European punctuation traditions like the French em-dash, signalling artistic rebellion and cultural identity, and even evoking a sense of **(64)** _____.

Yet not everyone is convinced- punctuations offer emotional cues and stimuli, just like how a semicolon might bring forth feelings of **(65)** _____. Thus, traditionalists often view such shifts as unnecessary affectation. To them, punctuation is not just a **(66)** _____, helping to anchor meaning precisely, but its mastery, meanwhile, also remains associated with an **(67)** _____ - those fluent in silent grammatical codes. But this fluency can easily veer into **(68)** _____, especially when wielded to exclude rather than clarify. Still, defenders of traditional punctuation argue that marks like quotation marks offer **(69)** _____, helping readers navigate dialogue and tone without confusion

62.	63.
64.	65.
66.	67.
68.	69.

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.

Ingvar Kamprad was born in 1926 in Älmhult, and grew up with his younger sister Kerstin, mother Berta and father Feodor. Ingvar spent his early years with his family at his mother Berta's farm home, Majtorp. You had to be thrifty and inventive to make ends meet. And Berta was. A kind, resourceful woman who, according to Ingvar, was loved by everybody. And Ingvar's maternal grandfather, Carl Bernhard Nilsson, was just as kind. He also had the perfect playground for a young boy – a hardware store.

70

Ingvar was a particularly energetic 17 year old when he registered IKEA. The company was named after himself, the farm he lived on and the parish he came from: Ingvar Kamprad Elmtaryd Agunnaryd. In fact Elmtaryd farm was where a lot of the operation took place. When Ingvar moved to Gothenburg to start business high school, his parents Berta and Feodor had to step in.

71

Why was this? Ingvar himself has said that it was during these lessons at business high school in Gothenburg that he decided his future lay in distribution. If you wanted to be a successful businessman, you had to figure out the simplest, most cost-effective means of distribution from the factory to the customer. Between lessons, Ingvar could be found in the school library, where he would read export and import ads in the trade papers. Surely he too could import goods from abroad? So he wrote some letters in broken English to different manufacturers, and started importing.

72

But what is it he's selling? As a young boy he sold matches and fish he had caught in Lake Möckeln. Later it was Christmas cards, seeds, pens, wallets, nylon stockings and costume jewellery. He even tried importing shoes and lighters from Switzerland. By now he has concluded that the most cost-effective distribution is to be found in pens – directly from the factory to the customer. His customers are newsagents, watchmakers, pen shops, book stores and rural stores. He communicates with his customers in small brochures, sales letters and price lists, often written

in an open, honest tone. He also pays personal visits, finding it easy to make contacts with his cheery, open manner.

73

Pens and watches seem to be his most successful products during the 1940s. Even so, he is relatively naive and does some bad deals. On one occasion he meets a businessman in Gothenburg who is selling a basic, yet good quality, ballpoint pen for just 2.50 kronor (EUR 0.25) – an excellent purchase price! Ingvar in turn intends to sell them to his customers for 3.95 kronor (EUR 0.39) – also a brilliant price when similar pens cost as much as 15 kronor (EUR 1.50). But on delivery it turns out that the purchase price has gone up to 4 kronor (EUR 0.40), which means a loss of 5 öre (EUR 0.005) on each one he sells.

74

But as we know, nothing in life is free. Reading Ingvar Kamprad's business correspondence from the 1940s reveals how much effort was needed to ensure the right quality of the pens he purchased. He also felt that the bureaucracy around import licences was problematic, if not impossible. Looking for a solution of his own, Ingvar started working together with a supplier to produce his own pen. After selling just 300, however, he could barely call that a success.

75

Towards the end of the 1940s, IKEA started selling furniture, and it very quickly became the main business. Always thinking of challenges as opportunities brought about all kinds of innovations in purchasing, finances and distribution. The foundation for this was already in Ingvar Kamprad back in the days when he worked on a small scale with pens and pipes at home – but the power and opportunities in the gap between customer and manufacturer really materialised in the 1950s.

Missing Paragraphs:

- A.** Customer care was something Ingvar had learnt early on, back when he would keep a customer register on his typewriter on the farm. Country folk are still his customers. People whose everyday lives he is familiar with. People who have grown up with little money, where every penny counts.

B.	The next five years, starting in summer 1943, were very busy for Ingvar. After high school in Gothenburg he worked for a short spell as an office clerk, and then did his military service in Växjö, southern Sweden. Meanwhile, his business started growing. In order to carry on running a business during military service, he talked his way into evening leave, which meant he could work from a rented office in town. This is where he spent his evenings, nights and weekends. Working day and night continued when he later did his officer training at Karlberg in Stockholm.
C.	At the end of the 1940s, Ingvar discovered that his main rival – Gunnar’s Factories in Alvesta – had started selling furniture, successfully. By this point, Ingvar realised that his future did not lie in selling pens. But perhaps furniture could be worth focusing on...? For those who have never been to Småland and seen Lake Möckeln surrounded by thick forest, it was a place with many small furniture factories. In fact most of Småland was full of skilled carpenters making furniture. So the move from imported pens from Paris to wooden furniture from Småland was not really such a big leap. The opportunity was right there – right in front of Ingvar’s eyes, in the forests of his childhood.
D.	The CB Nilssons store was a paradise that smelt of herring and leather, and sold everything from nails and sweets to dynamite. And behind the counter was the world’s best playmate – granddad. Ingvar could spend entire days here playing with him. He sometimes had to run an errand or two, but there were rarely any demands on him, he could just play and use his imagination. Ingvar’s granddad was great at playing, and he loved his little grandchild Ingvar.
E.	The trading company IKEA was registered on the 28th of July, 1943. But it was a far cry from the furniture company we know today. In his early years as an entrepreneur, Ingvar Kamprad imported pens, watches and nylon stockings, learning the ropes of purchasing step by step. But after some problems with import licences he started looking for new opportunities, and decided to focus on furniture. A business model gradually took shape when he realised that there was a major, interesting opportunity between the customer and manufacturer

F.	Getting it wrong and learning from your mistakes is a crucial part of the IKEA corporate culture today. But at the time, Ingvar was in tears on the way home from Gothenburg with several hundred pens he would have to sell at a loss. The deal had been done at the lower price – but it turned out that the handshake had meant nothing. Even so, overall Ingvar’s pen business was a great success. So great, indeed, that it laid the foundation for his future business dealings
G.	Ingvar himself claimed not to be that good a student at high school, but when he attended the lectures on Taylorism, he was struck by something that came to be crucial. He noted that the main efforts in commercial operations focused on efficient production, but very little effort, if any at all, focused on distribution. It was as if the streamlining at the factory suddenly vanished once a product had been produced. The process was slow and inefficient, and the distribution was outdated.

Part 4. For questions 76-85, read a passage on the Decameron 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.

An Amazon-branded palm scanner greeted me at my last doctor’s office visit a few weeks ago. I’m not sure what I’d call the experience. Unnerving? Orwellian?

Amazon One is a relatively new service from Amazon that lets businesses verify your identity after you wave your hand over a sensor. The technology first rolled out in the short-lived Amazon Go convenience stores in 2020 and is now a way to pay for groceries at Whole Foods. It’s also used for payment and age verification at a few sports and entertainment venues, including at Coors Field in Denver. **[I]** And as of March, you can also scan your palm with Amazon One to check in at NYU Langone Health locations, which is where I encountered it. So far, you won’t be forced to scan your palm to get a beer at a Rockies game or see an NYU doctor, but it’s an option.

In addition to its experiments in public venues, Amazon One is marketing its scanners as an alternative to the fobs and codes that let employees into their office buildings. Amazon is also working with hotel companies and manufacturers that make security doors and safety deposit boxes to incorporate its palm scanner.

Biometric scanning refers to the process of capturing your unique physical characteristics in order to confirm your identity. Whether it’s your palm, your fingerprint, your eyeball, or your face,

the concept can feel creepy or invasive to some. Biometric scanning can happen without your consent, as was the case with Clearview AI, the company that built a massive facial recognition database from billions of publicly available photos online. There's also a permanence to the collection of biometric data. **[II]**

Millions of people volunteer their faces or fingerprints, nevertheless, as a quick and convenient way to verify their identities and make life a little easier. With Apple's Face ID or Google's Face Unlock, you can keep the contents of your phone from prying eyes but avoid typing out an annoying passcode every time you want to check your texts. With Clear, you can skip the line at airport security. And with Amazon One, you can save a couple minutes of waiting at the doctor's office by scanning your palm instead of talking to a human.

Nevertheless, something seems fundamentally threatening about a future in which big tech companies use biometrics to serve as the gatekeepers of our digital identities.

What's especially disconcerting to me about Amazon One is that your biometric data is just another source of data that the company has about you. The tech giant, after all, is a massive enterprise whose businesses span from its eponymous marketplace to a health care company to a multibillion-dollar advertising network. **[III]** It's not always clear how engaging with one Amazon-owned entity affects your experience with others.

AWS, the Amazon division that operates Amazon One, specifies in a supplemental privacy notice that it will not share your palm data — effectively, the image of your hand — with third parties, although it also collects other data, including your phone number and your PIN, when you sign up. AWS, meanwhile, is clear in its broader privacy policy that it can share data about you with third parties, including advertisers. Then there is Amazon.com, which is governed by its own separate privacy policies. **[IV]**

When I asked Amazon about all this, spokesperson Alison Milligan said that your Amazon One profile is separate from your Amazon.com profile, and that Amazon One profile data is not used for marketing or shared with advertisers. "Amazon One palm data is not accessible to Amazon business units outside of Amazon One," Milligan said.

Meanwhile, NYU Langone Health spokesperson Arielle Sklar told me, "We do not share personal information with Amazon One, and Amazon One does not store any protected health information."

Still, privacy watchdogs caution that when it comes to massive tech companies, it's best to proceed with caution — the capabilities are enormous, and privacy policies can change. "Amazon likely can infer unbelievably sensitive health care data about people, partly because they have so

many different programs and so many different services,” said Calli Schroeder, senior counsel at the Electronic Privacy Information Center, or EPIC. “All of this stuff gets tied together and can be incredibly revealing.”

Amazon calls its biometric offering a “palm-based identity service.” You might call it the Everything Scanner.

76. What is the author’s initial emotional reaction to encountering the Amazon One scanner?

- A. Indifferent curiosity
- B. Enthusiastic acceptance
- C. Mild discomfort
- D. Technological fascination

77. Which of the following best captures the author’s tone throughout the article?

- A. Critical but resigned
- B. Alarmist and panicked
- C. Optimistic and persuasive
- D. Detached and technical

78. According to the text, how is Amazon expanding the use of its palm-scanning technology?

- A. By integrating it into Amazon.com’s retail checkout process
- B. By developing facial recognition software alongside palm scanning
- C. By marketing it to businesses in hospitality and security sectors
- D. By offering discounts to users who opt into biometric verification

79. What point is made about biometric data that distinguishes it from other personal data types?

- A. It is encrypted and therefore inherently more secure
- B. It can be changed easily if compromised
- C. It requires active user consent in every context
- D. It is permanent and difficult to alter once compromised

80. The reference to Clearview AI serves what purpose in the article?

- A. To showcase the benefits of advanced surveillance

- B. To provide historical context for Amazon's innovations
- C. To exemplify how biometric data can be exploited
- D. To illustrate the difference between fingerprint and palm scans

81. Which of the following best describes the author's view of convenience-based biometric services like Apple's Face ID and Clear?

- A. They should be banned due to ethical concerns
- B. They are useful but not widely trusted
- C. They represent a dangerous precedent
- D. They are tempting trade-offs despite privacy issues

82. Why does the author remain skeptical about Amazon's privacy assurances?

- A. Because AWS is known to sell biometric data to third parties
- B. Because different branches of Amazon operate under varied policies
- C. Because NYU Langone openly shares health data with Amazon
- D. Because the author experienced a data breach using Amazon One

83. What is implied about biometric data in relation to other types of data Amazon collects?

- A. It is the least sensitive of all data types
- B. It's more reliable and easier to monetize
- C. It completes a broader picture of user identity
- D. It's used exclusively for internal verification

84. What is suggested by the phrase "the Everything Scanner"?

- A. The device may eventually be capable of replacing all forms of ID
- B. The scanner is the most advanced of its kind on the market
- C. The nickname reflects Amazon's marketing slogan
- D. The scanner lacks the ability to distinguish between users

85. Among the space I, II, III, IV, where does the sentence "*Once a company has the details of your face, you don't have much control over how that data is used. After all, you can't easily go out and get a new face.*" best fit?

- A. [I]

- B. [II]
- C. [III]
- D. [IV]

Part 5. The passage below consists of seven 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.

East of Eden - reviews

A. I'm finding it really hard to portray how intensely I loved this book and how deeply it resonated with me. John Steinbeck's *East of Eden* is honestly so clever. I usually don't write the synopsis of books in my reviews, because I tend to skip over them when reading reviews myself and there are so many online, none of which prepared me for the actual scope of this novel. All that I knew was that it was a family saga following multiple generations, and perhaps that's best. I was left to enjoy what unfolds without implicit biases. But the plot is so integral to my feelings about the book, since it explores and expands on a biblical story that I myself always pondered. It made me feel validated that the characters in the book also puzzled over it, and I don't think I can ever think of the biblical story without thinking of this novel.

B. This book has been criticized for being too verbose, meandering, inconsistently paced, and heavy handed in its parallel with the story of Cain and Abel. Yes, it is verbose and meandering, but that's Steinbeck. It gives a full picture of the Salinas valley. It gives you insights and perspectives you might not otherwise have. If anything, Steinbeck's constant forays into unrelated sidebars give the reader a break in pace, a rest that makes the more important parts of the books feel as though they flow more smoothly. As for the parallel with Cain and Abel, it is heavy-handed. That being said, the heavy-handedness didn't bother me. Going in to the novel with the expectation of it being a retelling of Cain and Abel (at least for some of the narrative) is enough to make the obvious references to Cain and Abel seem natural. If Steinbeck had given the impression that he was trying to hide the parallel, it would have been insulting. But Steinbeck isn't trying to hide it--he makes it clear that the story of Cain and Abel are an integral part of his story.

C. I loved the opening of this which was a nostalgic description of the Salinas Valley in California. It was incredibly vivid but it was tinged with a hint of melancholy as the narrator discusses his childhood several times, recalling his memories. He mentions 'childhood names for grasses and secret flowers' without revealing what they were and, for some reason, this caught my attention.

It felt secretive and personal but it was also introducing me to a place I have never visited. It was a beautiful, engaging opening. I also was really intrigued by the plot and the themes that Steinbeck was exploring as he, like many other authors before and after him, dramatizes the perpetual conflict between good and evil in society. Sometimes, I lost focus of the plot but it was, for the most part, interesting and engaging.

I think my main gripe with *East of Eden* is that it's way too long. This book did not need to be over 700 pages long and towards the 500-page mark, I was beginning to get bored. I had to power through the last 200 pages because if I had put it down, this book would have remained unfinished.

D. There are many metrics by which the greatness of a literary work can be measured, but perhaps nothing is more indicative than the breadth of the wider human story that it aspires to wrangle into its tale. By this standard, *East of Eden* has certainly bitten off quite a mouthful of our homosapial chew.

A work of art might be impressive in the context of its creation, but if its meaning is lost on future generations so is its right to declare greatness. In other words, a truly great work will be as relevant one hundred years later as it was on the day it was made. *East of Eden* overwhelmingly meets this measure.

For example, Steinbeck describes how the American people—having forgotten the horrors of previous wars—looked to enter the First World War with somewhat excited trepidation. It was only after telegrams began arriving with the names of dead soldiers that reality bit down and the hunger for such foreign adventure began to wane. The relevance doesn't stop there. Our wonder and fear at unfamiliar technological development, the pain of absent fathers, questions of progress in opposition to tradition, conflict between eastern and western societies, and of course the “one story” of good versus evil—these are matters that remain pressing today, and look to stay relevant for a long time to come

E. Steinbeck understood how history plays out and repeats itself, or, in other words, he understood stories, and people, what they say and do, and the gulfs in between. He also loved language - which are all ingredients that, I reckon, a great novelist make. Alongside an exceptional ability to describe the terror and beauty of American landscapes and seasons, Steinbeck took human behaviours, all the motives and unspoken things that linger below the surface of our consciousness, and raised them into plain sight.

Steinbeck intended *East of Eden* to be his defining opus. In *East of Eden*, then, Steinbeck presented us with a particular set of people, a time and place with which he was intimately familiar, while simultaneously inventing new worlds and characters with whom they interact. But the centrifugal concept on which this novel pivots is Steinbeck's significant reinterpretation of a biblical Hebrew term, "Timshel", which he translated to "thou mayest" rather than the traditional "thou shalt", thus changing the onus entirely. This, Steinbeck wanted to show us, means that we, like his characters, must choose to overcome our fates, rather than muddling through a perpetual present, forever making the same mistakes.

Which speaker

Your answers:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| appreciates the novel's ability to make timeless observations about the human condition? | 86. _____ |
| felt a personal connection to the biblical narrative explored in the novel? | 87. _____ |
| considers the book's descriptive detours as contributing positively to its rhythm and realism? | 88. _____ |
| felt that their initial expectations were surpassed due to limited prior knowledge? | 89. _____ |
| was particularly drawn to the nostalgic evocation of place in the opening of the novel? | 90. _____ |
| believes that the novel's continued relevance is key to its literary greatness? | 91. _____ |
| admired the way the author externalized unspoken human motivations? | 92. _____ |
| criticizes the novel for its excessive length despite generally enjoying it? | 93. _____ |
| notes that the novel's central message hinges on a reinterpretation of a specific Hebrew word? | 94. _____ |
| argues that the obvious biblical parallels felt appropriate rather than overdone? | 95. _____ |

Springboard
English

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.

In the early days of robotics, robots were often working in isolation from the human workforce. This was mainly because the robots were of significant size and were only made to perform a significant task, such as welding on an automotive production line. However, one of the key trends that we have observed is the advent of robots working safely together with humans. This shift has meant that businesses have been able to improve productivity, while reducing physical strain on employees and improving overall site safety by using robots to carry out tasks that could pose risk to human health.

Thanks to the advances made in sensor technologies, cameras and AI, modern AMRs are able to understand their surroundings and work in harmony with human counterparts.

One of the major benefits of AMRs today is that they are incredibly flexible in their capabilities. Traditional industrial robots required space, complex programming and dedicated workspaces. However, AMRs are relatively easy to deploy and depending on the use case, can be programmed by non-technical experts. This broadens the appeal of the technology from large enterprises to SME sized businesses that may not have traditionally had resources to invest in large scale automation systems. These advances are democratizing automation and allow businesses of all sizes to reap the benefits of robotics.

But what of the traditional industrial robots? Here we are seeing advances as well. Automotive, electronics and food processing are increasingly adopting robots to assist with repetitive tasks such as welding, assembly and packaging. In healthcare robots are used to assist surgeons with complex procedures, enhancing precision and reducing the risk of errors.

We can expect to see even more sophisticated forms of human-robot collaboration in the coming years as more businesses have access to the technology and start to see the benefits these technologies can bring to the business.

.....

.....

.....

.....

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

Some people believe that artificial intelligence should be allowed to evolve freely, while others argue that strict regulations are necessary to prevent misuse.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Springboard
English

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

- GOOD LUCK, AND DO NOT CRY -

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 **24** 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 questions 1 – 5, listen to two friends, Kathy and Derek, talking about films based on 19th century novels, and decide whether the following are mentioned by only one of the speakers, or by both of them. In the corresponding numbered boxes provided,

1. D	2. B	3. K	4. B	5. K
------	------	------	------	------

Part 2. For questions 6 – 10, listen to a news report on global environmental events and match each number (6 – 10) in Column A with one letter (A – J) in Column B to make a correct statement according to what is stated or implied by the speaker(s). Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

1. B
2. A
3. C

4. H

5. J

Part 3. For questions 11–15, listen to Captain Walker, discussing air turbulence 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. C	12. C	13. B	14. C	15. C
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Part 4. For questions 16–25, listen to a talk about Airplane black boxes, and complete the following summary. Write NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER taken from the recording for each blank. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

16. Terrorism	17. First commercial jet
18. Solid-state memory chips	19. Last 2 hours of sound
20. Wake turbulence	21. Aggressive rudder movement
22. Pitch, roll, and yaw	23. 14,000 feet of water
24. Satellites or ground stations	25. Privacy and cost

II. LEXICO – GRAMMAR (2.0 points)

Part 1. For questions 26 – 35, read the passage below and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits each space. Write the letter A, B, C, or D in the numbered boxes provided.

26. A	27. B	28. A	29. B	30. A
31. D	32. A	33. A	34. D	35. A

Part 2. For questions 36 – 40, read the passage, then fill in each of the numbered spaces with the correct form of the words given in the box. Write your answers in the numbered boxes provided. There are FOUR words that you do not need to use. The first one, (0), has been done as an example.

36. equivalent	37. solitude	38. unwanted	39. optimize	40. untamed
----------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	-------------

Part 3. The passage below contains FIVE grammatical mistakes. For questions 41 – 45, UNDERLINE the mistakes and WRITE THEIR CORRECT FORMS in the numbered boxes provided in the column on the right. The first one has been done as an example.

Eternal life seems like the sweetest of sweet deals. You get to go everywhere, do everything, and collect stories you'll be telling at parties for **millennium**. But before you sign up for immortality, be forewarned: It isn't all it's cracked up to be. Even in the comparatively sweet world of fiction there are plenty of souls embittered by immortality. In the words of Queen, *who wants to live forever?* Not these folks. And here's why.

The things you have to go through to live forever make you wonder if **they're** worth the effort. Vampirism is the most obvious example: Sure, you get eternal life plus super-powers (superhuman strength, turning into a bat, the currently popular Sunlight Sparkle), but you have to drink all that darn blood. In the Guillermo del Toro film *Cronos*, people achieve immortality through a device invented by a medieval alchemist—but they develop a vampiric need **of** fresh blood. In the 1960 B-movie *The Leech Woman*, a woman keeps herself young through a secret African **formulae** of orchid pollen and pineal juice. She has to keep killing men for their pineal glands, which you can only do for so long before the cops get suspicious. Their version of immortality isn't a long, sumptuous meal, but a hamster wheel, **which speed** ever faster but impossible to jump off of.

Your answers:

E.g. Error → Correction

41. Millennium ->

millenia

42. They're -> it's

43. Need of -> need for

44. Formulae ->

formula

45. Which speed ->

speeding

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.

46. Evoke	47. Rather	48. Gap	49. Immediate	50. Unearthed
51. Identified	52. Belonged	53. Meaning	54. Evolved	55. Rise

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

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. TRUE
- 57. NOT GIVEN
- 58. TRUE
- 59. NOT GIVEN
- 60. TRUE
- 61. FALSE

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.

- 62. COLONIAL, (EVEN) PATRIARCHAL
- 63. IMPERIALIST
- 64. EDGINESS AND IRISHNESS
- 65. SCORN
- 66. SEMANTIC MARKER
- 67. ELITE INTELLECTUAL ARISTOCRACY
- 68. STUPIDITY AND PRETENSION
- 69. REASSURING ACCURACY

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.

70. D	71. G	72. B	73. A	74. F	75. C
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Part 4. *For questions 76-85, read the passage 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.*

76. C	77. A	78. C	79. D	80. C
81. D	82. B	83. C	84. A	85. B

Part 5. *The passage below consists of seven 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.*

86. D	87. A	88. B	89. A	90. C
91. D	92. E	93. C	94. E	95. B

Springboard
English

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.

Introduction

Early industrial robots worked separately from humans due to their size and task specificity. Recent trends show a shift toward collaborative robotics.

Key Drivers of Change

Advances in sensors, AI, and cameras enable autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) to safely interact with humans.

Benefits of AMRs

AMRs are flexible, easy to deploy, and usable by non-experts. They appeal to both large companies and SMEs, broadening automation access.

Continued Role of Traditional Robots

Still vital in sectors like automotive and healthcare for repetitive or precision tasks.

Future Outlook

Human-robot collaboration is expected to become even more advanced and widespread.

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

Some people believe that artificial intelligence should be allowed to evolve freely, while others argue that strict regulations are necessary to prevent misuse. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Introduction:

- Provide background information on the liberty of A.I use
- Paraphrase the question
- State that the essay will discuss both sides of the argument and present its own opinion

Body Paragraph 1: Arguments for Allowing AI to Evolve Freely

- Encourages innovation, creativity, and faster technological progress.
- Overregulation may slow down development and place limits on beneficial uses (e.g. medicine, education).

- Free development allows competition and growth in the global tech economy.

Body Paragraph 2: Arguments for Strict Regulation

- AI poses risks if misused (e.g. surveillance, bias, autonomous weapons).
- Regulation ensures ethical standards, protects privacy, and maintains human control.
- Without oversight, corporations or governments could exploit AI for harmful purposes.

Body Paragraph 3: Writer's Own Opinion

- While innovation is essential, unrestricted development is risky.
- Support for **balanced regulation**: clear rules to prevent abuse but flexible enough to encourage research.
- Suggest other alternatives if possible

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

- GOOD LUCK, AND DO NOT CRY -

SPRINGBOARD EDUCATION
ĐỀ LUYỆN TẬP SỐ 3

KỲ THI THỬ CHỌN 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 thứ nhất: **.../.../202...**
Đề thi gồm **17** trang

SỐ PHÁCH

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

I. LISTENING (5.0 points)

- 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 other instructions are included in the recording.

Part 1. For questions 1–5, listen to part of a radio programme in which two people, Jim and Sue, are discussing physical exercise and decide whether the opinions are expressed by Jim (J), Sue (S), or both (B), where they agree. Write J, S, or B in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- The current increase in the number of fitness centres must indicate an improvement in people's health.
- Many people believe whatever the media tell them about health issues.
- Many people fail to exercise regularly because they have too many other commitments.
- It's easier to maintain a fitness programme when you exercise with a group of friends.
- Group exercise sessions during working hours benefit employees.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Part 2. For questions 6–10, listen to a talk about football athletes and complete each sentence with the correct ending A–J. Write the correct letter A–J in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- Miroslav Klose
- Artiz Aduriz
- Luca Toni
- Dado Pršo
- Jamie Vardy

- quickly helped his team achieve a higher professional status.
- scored more than his predecessors combined in a football league.
- was loyal to one football club throughout his professional career.
- was responsible for a momentous defeat in an international league.
- had the most goals throughout the entire history of a country.
- was dismissed from his team for a long time before rejoining.
- did not fully dedicate himself to his sport in his early career.
- ensured that his team always went undefeated whenever he played.
- had an unexceptional streak when he began playing professionally.
- had the opportunity to participate in an international league early on.

Your answers:

6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
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Part 3. For questions 11–15, listen to a lecture on unusual office buildings, and write the letter A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions according to what you hear.

11. According to the lecturer, designers of famous buildings often try to
 - A. maximise their buildings' practical utility.
 - B. ensure their buildings' timeless appeal.
 - C. confound their buildings' potential visitors.
 - D. reinvent their buildings' interior structure.
12. What does the lecturer say about innovatively designed office buildings?
 - A. They are usually financially unviable.
 - B. They will eventually establish themselves.
 - C. They will only appear in affluent areas.
 - D. They are not always highly regarded.
13. The lecturer mentions Lloyd's of London to illustrate the point that
 - A. architects should extensively gauge public reception.
 - B. notions of aesthetic beauty can evolve over time.
 - C. novel designs will likely receive strong criticism.
 - D. practicality should not compromise visual charm.
14. Which of the following is **NOT** true for both Lloyd's of London and the F&F building?
 - A. They are headquartered by enterprises.
 - B. They are rather cost-effective to build.
 - C. They break with architectural tradition.
 - D. They feature a strikingly grand exterior.
15. What does the lecturer imply about new designs through the questions she raises?
 - A. They are a passing trend at best.
 - B. They do not value functionality enough.
 - C. They can pose logistical obstacles.
 - D. They should not be widely embraced.

Your answers:

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
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Part 4. For questions 16–25, listen to a talk about the ocean 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.

Despite its vastness, there is still a(n) (16) _____ lying in the ocean which we previously could hardly enter due to (17) _____. However, new technological inventions have enabled us to overcome this difficult challenge and witness the ever-growing wealth of (18) _____, including one whose body was recently discovered to be composed of (19) _____. Furthermore, we have managed to reveal the truth about the ocean floor: contrary to what we might mistakenly assume, it is a thriving world rather than a (20) _____.

However, the ocean is under threat. Human activity has affected it to such an extent that scientists found plastic in the stomach of a crustacean when surveying what was among the most (21) _____. What is more, there exist places that are not oxygenated enough. The fact that it is difficult to realise the true severity of these problems has fueled our perception of the ocean as (22) _____.

Therefore, it is high time that we grew aware of what the ocean offers. Not only can it help resolve (23) _____, but in fact, we owe our existence to the (24) _____ living in it. It is unfortunate that what we have done to safeguard this ecosystem is akin to a (25) _____.

Your answers:

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

II. READING (8.0 points)

II.1. LANGUAGE IN USE (3.0 points)

Part 1. For questions 26–35, read the text below and write the letter A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided to indicate the answer that best fits each gap.

After (26) _____ over the works of the Roman architect Vitruvius, the 15th-century polymath Leon Battista Alberti came up with the Renaissance concept of the Ideal City and soon, any Universal Man worth their (27) _____ was devising his own version. Many were (28) _____ utopias that would stay on the page or as models: maverick architect Filarete (29) _____ his pioneering, star-shaped prototype Sforzinda after his patron, while Da Vinci's imagined version was inevitably (30) _____, featuring an underground sewage system, fresh air vents and pedestrian areas.

A flurry of Ideal Cities, among (31) _____ was cosmopolitan Zamość in Poland (another World Heritage Site), (32) _____ up soon afterwards. Then there's Palmanova, which was built in 1593 at the northeastern edge of the Venetian Republic and as near to Sforzinda's scheme as imaginable, complete with star-shaped fortifications hidden from view by forest. (33) _____ it's UNESCO-protected today and the inspiration for myriad YouTube drone videos, Palmanova proved a hard (34) _____ when it was built. A hastily implemented strategy created by the Republic offered land at (35) _____ prices, often to prematurely pardoned criminals.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 26. A. delving | B. wading | C. poring | D. scrutinising |
| 27. A. time | B. while | C. salt | D. money |
| 28. A. immaterial | B. ideational | C. conjectural | D. notional |
| 29. A. named | B. designated | C. denominated | D. titled |
| 30. A. ahead of its time | B. once upon a time | C. up to the minute | D. in good time |
| 31. A. they | B. which | C. them | D. whom |
| 32. A. propped | B. burgeoned | C. emerged | D. sprang |
| 33. A. Provided that | B. As much as | C. Because | D. Though |
| 34. A. sell | B. bargain | C. currency | D. cost |
| 35. A. run-down | B. pull-down | C. watered-down | D. knock-down |

Your answers:

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

Part 2. For questions 36–40, read the following passage and fill in each of the numbered spaces with the correct form of the words given in the box to make a meaningful passage. There are FOUR words that you do not need to use. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. An example (0) has been done for you.

RELATE
POPULAR

SURGE
DANGER

MUCH
ROUGH

PERCEIVE
COMMUNICATE

FULFILL
VITAL

There are now (0) _____ hundreds of language (36) _____ movements around the world; however, they lack real financial, political, and technical support from majority populations. Speakers of languages now facing (37) _____ almost never encounter outside interest in or knowledge about their languages, while persecution, mockery, and stigma are still common. (38) _____ as language policy or discussion is on the agenda at all, it relates to specific points of conflict in a few dominant languages, not the collapse of linguistic diversity itself.

For language revivers, a feeling of (39) _____ might be waiting round the bend of every single utterance. When almost no one else is doing it, matching a string of sounds to a concrete meaning can seem downright arbitrary. And yet it is only after ingesting masses of often seemingly arbitrary words that people can process or produce them at speed, and only then that they can start feeling the (40) _____ sense of what it is to live in a particular language. To try to communicate with what is no longer a tool of communication – to resurrect a whole worldview almost over the horizon – is a wonderful madness hardly anyone can understand.

Your answers:

0. <i>roughly</i>	36.	37.
38.	39.	40.

Part 3. The passage below contains FIVE mistakes. For questions 41–45, UNDERLINE the mistakes, and WRITE THEIR CORRECT FORMS in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. An example (0) has been done for you.

The truth are that nobody really knows how language first began. Did we all start talking at around the same time regardless of the manner with which our brains had begun to develop?

As there is a lack of clear evidence, people have come up with various theories about the origins of language. One recent theory is that human beings have evolved in such a way that we are programmed for language from the moment of birth. In other words, language came about as a result of an evolutionary change in our brains at some stage.

Language might as well be programmed into the brain but, despite this, people still need stimulus from others around them. From studies, we know that if children are isolated from human contact and have not learnt to construct sentences before they are ten, it is doubtful that they will ever do so. This research shows, if anything else, that language is a social activity, not something invented in isolation.

Your answers:

0. <i>is</i>	41.	42.	43.	44.	45.
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II.2. READING COMPREHENSION (5.0 points)

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

Suppose that you wanted to read *The Seventh Regiment Rhode Island Volunteers in the Civil War 1862–1865*, a book out of (46) _____ more than a century ago. Where would you go? You could try the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Perhaps the New York Public Library carries a tattered copy. Or are the last few editions tucked (47) _____ in some dusty unlit room at Oxford University’s distinguished Bodleian Library? (48) _____ the location of the book, geographical proximity, or lack (49) _____, would be a stultifying hindrance to your quest. However, if the likes of Amazon.com, Google Inc., Yahoo, Microsoft and other high-tech giants get their own (50) _____, you might only need a computer with a connection to the Web.

The idea is a profound one that has not been attempted in over 2,000 years: to collect all the books in the world under one digital (51) _____. The ancient Library of Alexandria attempted to copy every book (52) _____ written, and by some estimates, in 300 B.C., the scribes of Alexandria had successfully copied 75 percent of the world’s tomes by (53) _____. Problems abound, but not technological ones – advanced digital scanners now allow operators to scan one page for about 10 cents. Instead, they are (54) _____. Copyrights and the controversial issue of intellectual property pose the greatest obstacle to what would (55) _____ be a noble quest.

Your answers:

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

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

LIFE THROUGH A LENS

Angela Woods explores the role of the camera in life today

Nowadays most of us own a camera of some kind and we’re generally quite tolerant whenever anyone starts snapping. Their use is no longer reserved for holidays and children’s birthdays; the modern photographer has more grandiose ambitions. The desire to capture special moments for posterity persists, but the brief has been extended. Every moment seems special and, as a result, amateur snappers are busier than the professionals. Whether we’re taking pictures of a hotel sink for a travellers’ website or beating the paparazzi to a blurry shot of a minor celebrity in the street, we’re snapping rather than looking.

Oddly, although we take more pictures than we ever have, we spend less time actually looking at them. Some people blame digital photography for this. But is our disconnection from these images really because they’re stored on computer, rather than in albums? We could print them out if we wanted to, or force bored family and friends to sit through computer slide shows. Surely our disengagement is not so much due to a shift in medium as to the fact that the images lack significance. In the past, our favourite photos went beyond surface likeness and captured the essence of a person or place. A picture could reveal something about a person even he or she wasn’t aware of. Photos don’t seem to do this anymore.

As well as bearing witness, photography once raised consciousness. When I was growing up, photographs often seemed more powerful and persuasive than words. The ones I’ve amassed on my hard drive in the last few years seem vacuous by comparison. My holiday snaps may be neatly composed following readily available expert advice, but they feel blank. The Florida sunsets seem like photographic

clichés. The images of African landscapes speak blandly of a predictable taste for going off the beaten track in search of the ultimate photographic experience.

And what of the other side of the coin: being photographed ourselves? As a child and teenager, if it had been acceptable, I would have lashed out when someone pointed a camera at me. The resulting pictures would have been more authentic than those where I tried to cover up my horror of being photographed. I would strive to look deep, instead of angry, and gaze into the middle distance. Refusing to meet the camera's gaze was an attempt to retain control over how I was portrayed. Having since read the great Roland Barthes' book, *Camera Lucida*, I understand better what I was up to. Barthes shared my desire to look intelligent in photos and he hoped his expression would convey 'an amused awareness of the photographic process'. Whether we succeeded, the underlying urge was surely to prevent the camera gaining possession of our identities.

When I first started in journalism, the writer's photo at the head of an article was invariably tiny. Things have changed however. Newspapers and magazines are now full of unattractive people looking wryly amused to find themselves pictured alongside politicians and celebrities. Journalists tend to look terrible in pictures, but editors believe this makes them more appealingly real than airbrushed celebrities. They are marketed as normal people who readers are meant to identify with, though they are usually far from normal. Some interpret this trend as a sign that journalists are more valued now, but the reality is that we have become low-grade operatives rather than creatives. Words are now used to illustrate the pictures rather than the other way round.

Magazines and newspapers with more and bigger photos in them appear to suit young people's enthusiasm for photography. Once upon a time, being seen with a camera was uncool. Now, you aren't really dressed without one. Most of my younger friends have hundreds of photos on their phones. The interesting thing is that they all seem attracted to subjects that would once have been deemed unworthy of being photographed. Avoiding clichés seems to be the impulse, though whether this is being achieved must be in question if they are all doing the same thing.

A colleague of mine recently showed me how he'd photographed a rather unpalatable plate of meatballs, rather than the grand old architecture of a restaurant. This was followed by his snaps of a holiday in Yosemite National Park in the USA. Not bothering with the spectacular mountain scenery, he had photographed signs about not feeding the wild bears. As he showed them to me, I felt I had seen them before somewhere.

I often wonder what the everpresent lens is doing to my children and their generation. Kids' TV programmes encourage children to send in photos of their parents in undignified positions or displaying a dubious sense of style. Reality programmes dominate TV schedules and online photo-sharing is now integral to much of social life. Adults might see through such things with a smug sense of detachment, but we don't know what the long-term effects on younger minds might be. Doesn't constant snapping reduce spontaneity? The world gets worn out by being photographed and its inhabitants, like me, do as well. Will my kids end up deeply jaded too, or because they are growing up behind and in front of the camera, will they have a natural immunity to it? It remains to be seen.

For questions 56–63, decide whether the following statements reflect the claims of the writer. In the corresponding numbered boxes provided, write Y if the statement reflects the claims of the writer, N if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer, and NG if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this.

- 56. The number of things that people want to take a photograph of is increasing.
- 57. People spend less time looking at photos than in the past since they can be stored digitally.
- 58. As a photographer, the writer does not come up with original ideas for her pictures.

59. During her childhood, the writer would try to protect herself whenever she was photographed.
60. Readers of newspapers can often relate to the images of journalists that are featured in them.
61. The writer believes that nowadays everyone must possess a camera to appear fashionable.
62. From the writer's perspective, the images her colleague took were boring and unoriginal.
63. The rise of low-quality photographs will have a negative impact on adults.

Your answers:

56.	57.	58.	59.	60.	61.	62.	63.
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For questions 64–68, read the following sentences and fill in each blank with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS taken from the passage. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

64. Long ago, photographs would transcend _____ and throw light on hidden qualities.
65. For the writer, apart from _____, photographs also used to be thought-provoking and evocative.
66. Newspapers' tendency to print photos of journalists has reduced journalists to the status of _____.
67. The writer observes, with skepticism, a recent trend of people _____ when they take pictures.
68. The writer expresses her fear that _____ will make photographs no longer seem natural.

Your answers:

64.	65.	66.
67.	68.	

Part 3. You are going to read an extract from an article. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the extract. For questions 69–75, read the extract 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 correct letter A–H in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

THE SECRETS OF STEPHEN DAVID JONES

With his brilliant mind and impeccable credentials, it's little wonder that wealthy clients trusted him with their fortunes. Then they started to get suspicious

Ewan McKay is a quiet, trusting man with a lifelong passion for golf. Growing up in the 1950s in Angus, a windswept county on Scotland's east coast, he found the sport a perfect outlet: a shared activity that reduced the pressures of socialising. Later, as an adult, golfing allowed him to rub shoulders with wealthy farmers who became useful contacts for his expanding business, selling Scottish seed potatoes to English farms. Once he sold that business, McKay had enough money to follow his dreams and create a course of his own.

69

When McKay spoke to Jones, the lawyer suggested that he put his money into a trust on the Caribbean island of Nevis. Jones's law firm would act as the trustee and McKay's children would be registered as the beneficiaries. This, Jones explained, was the smartest way of arranging his tax affairs.

70

In January 2006, Jones's law firm, Jirehouse, registered the Scotia Trust Foundation in Nevis. Since Jirehouse was its sole trustee, only Jones and his colleagues had direct access to information about the assets it held for McKay's family. Jirehouse created three further Scotia entities in Nevis. And, as Jirehouse

was a director, secretary, partner or trustee in all four of the Scotia entities, Jones could sign paperwork on Scotia's behalf without consulting McKay.

71

Jones was affable and loquacious, and McKay started to think of him as a friend. He invited Jones to shooting parties at his home and at another local estate, Fettercairn, and Jones and his wife attended the wedding of McKay's daughter. Jones often told McKay about various property deals he was involved with – an ocean-front development in Nevis, a swanky hotel in Iceland – and soon, Jones started to take his own private shooting parties to Fettercairn.

72

In 2010, McKay repurchased the plot of land in St Andrews. His plan was to finally start building the private members' club and golf course. The Feddinch Club would target high net worth foreigners, and membership would be by invitation only. The price for joining as one of the club's founder members was £250,000. Michael Bowes-Lyon, a first cousin once removed of Queen Elizabeth II, agreed to become the club's honorary president, and a glossy brochure advertised its proximity to an airstrip for private jets.

73

In early 2013, McKay decided to move closer to St Andrews to be nearer to the golf course. He found a bungalow with a wide view of the site and the sea beyond. On Jones's instructions, Scotia would be listed on the deeds for McKay's new home, just as it had been for his house in Angus. Shortly before the purchase went through, however, Jones told McKay there had been a change of plan.

74

Jirehouse's offices occupied two townhouses on John Street. The five-storey building had an olive green front door, a stone portico and black metal railings. The firm gave the impression of a private office that dealt with old money. Its meeting rooms were wood-panelled, its letters to clients printed on creamy Conqueror paper, and its business cards embossed with a curling coat of arms. Jones had previously worked at two magic circle firms, Freshfields and Slaughter and May, and Jirehouse's senior team included solicitors with similarly elite backgrounds. Towards his staff, Jones behaved with the generosity of a Victorian patron. "I was kind of in awe of the place," said one former employee, James (not his real name). "If you hadn't come into contact with that world before, it could be intimidating."

75

"At the time, I just perceived him to be very posh. And it's weird saying that ... because I'm not sure I'd think that any more. I'd think of him more as a blank now," said James. The absence of other details about his life before Jirehouse was striking. Where did he come from? Who was he, really? Last autumn, I contacted his brother, Tim, asking to talk. "Perhaps we should meet," Tim wrote back. "It's a long painful story ... the roots of my brother's downfall started many years ago."

Missing paragraphs:

- A. Instead of Scotia's name appearing on the property deeds, Jones and another Jirehouse colleague would be listed as the property's owners. McKay panicked when he heard this, but Jones reassured him. Jirehouse would be holding the house on trust for him and his family, he said, so it would still

technically belong to them. McKay continued to worry. He couldn't shake the feeling that it wasn't him who owned his new house – it was Jones.

- B. McKay did his due diligence on Jones, inviting him up to Dundee to meet lawyers he knew. "Every single one of them thought he was plausible, charming and obviously extremely well known in respect of tax," he told me. Jones seemed the epitome of an urbane, chivalrous Englishman. He read the Financial Times, sent his son to Eton and was rarely seen not wearing a waistcoat. He lived in a red Victorian mansion block in Little Venice, a prime area of west London. After meeting Jones, one of McKay's lawyer friends said, "You've got yourself a cracker here."
- C. McKay sensed that although Jones seemed to be from an affluent background, he enjoyed being around people who were richer than he was, as if pretending that their money was his own. Once, McKay received a bill from Fettercairn for a shoot that Jones had hosted. The estate manager said that Jones had charged the party to Scotia's account. When McKay confronted Jones about this, he said it was an error.
- D. Looking back now, after the truth about Jones's transgressions have come to light, it is hard not to search for clues. If his piety was sincere, the effort he put into cultivating his gentlemanly image suggested an underlying insecurity. In the Telegraph video, his voice sometimes slips from received pronunciation into something less plummy. Former Jirehouse staff I interviewed couldn't tell me anything about Jones's background except that he had worked at magic circle firms.
- E. From the outset, Jones was eager to assist. He suggested that Jirehouse become a partner in the Feddinch Club, and arranged for McKay to fly to New York and meet some investors and an architect. McKay had never worked on a project of this scale before, and was keen to secure financing, so he brought Jirehouse on board as a partner. "My dad's his own worst enemy," said McKay's son, Bruce. "If he meets somebody who appears successful, he'll take their advice."
- F. Jones assured McKay that the complexity of the Scotia network was a sign of its sophistication. "He kept saying, 'Don't worry, everything is going great,'" McKay recalled. After McKay bought a new home in Angus with an adjoining shooting estate, Jones suggested that one of the Scotia entities should be listed as the owner, explaining this would be more "tax efficient". Jones was often vague about the structures he set up on McKay's behalf, but McKay assumed that this vagueness was a way of insulating him from the prying eyes of tax inspectors.
- G. Many of Jirehouse's London staff lacked the blue-chip credentials one might expect from a boutique tax firm serving high net worth clients. "The majority of young people there wouldn't have been able to get a job elsewhere," said James, the former Jirehouse staff member. Jones took pride in the firm's cosmopolitanism, and Jirehouse advertised that its staff spoke Pashto, Russian, Serbo-Croat and Turkmen. Sarah speculated that there was another reason Jones liked to surround himself with people on work visas. "It meant that they probably didn't know what was going on, and if they did, their primary concern was protecting their work status."
- H. McKay bought a plot of land in St Andrews and secured planning permission for a golf course and private members' club. But two years later, he received an offer of £20m to buy the land. "It was the kind of sum you couldn't turn down," he recalled. He made a profit of £13m from the sale, and while he was golfing down in Kent, a friend suggested he ought to meet a solicitor called Stephen David Jones, who was a master at whittling down tax bills. "He said, 'What are you doing about tax?'" McKay told me. "And I said, I wasn't thinking about tax. I just pay it. And he said: 'I can introduce you to someone brilliant.'"

Your answers:

69.	70.	71.	72.	73.	74.	75.
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Part 4. You are going to read a preface to a book. For questions 76–85, read the preface and write A, B, C or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer which fits best according to what is stated or implied in the extract.

PREFACE TO A BOOK ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE ARTS

1. That there should be some significant relation between aesthetic modernism and new media seems true almost by definition. Modernism, after all, stakes its initial claim to fame on new modes and new methods, innovations so drastic they seem not just to change the old arts but to invent new and unrecognizable ones. But the sheer impossibility of remaining new has most definitely caught up with innovations like free verse and pictorial abstraction, which retain very little of their original challenge in a time when the new media include hypertext novels and online simulations.
2. As Lev Manovich has shown, however, the conceptual basis of the most current new media can only be strengthened by reference to the times in which the very concept of new media first arose. The checkered history of the electronic book, for example, ought certainly to include *The Readies* of Bob Brown, conceived in the late 1920s, a time even more gullibly fascinated by new means of transmission than our own. Brown's reading machine managed in some ways to make literature even more linear than did the conventional codex, and thus it remained light years away from hypertext, but the excitement and the doubts it inspired both seem almost uncannily familiar in the early twenty-first century. Many of the issues current in discussions of the new media predate the personal computer; some arise as early as the invention of mechanical recording in the nineteenth century.
3. Of course, that invention has inspired a tremendous amount of commentary, but astonishingly little of it concentrates on the fact of mechanical recording itself. "The photograph," as Patrick Maynard calls it, using quotation marks to designate a popular idealization, is imagined primarily as a picture, and its influence in histories of the arts thus remains limited to technical issues such as perspective and to philosophical debates about mimesis. Even the notion of mechanical reproducibility made so influential by Walter Benjamin has generally led to a concentration on the dissemination of images, not on the means by which they are originally produced. That a photograph is a method of mechanically rearranging, codifying, storing, and perhaps producing sense impressions now seems a great deal more significant in the presence of so many electronic methods of doing the same. Understanding of the photograph, that is to say, should not stop at the surface of the image itself, any more than understanding of the computer could stop with the monitor.
4. One of the preliminary claims of this book, then, is that the wholesale reorganization of human knowledge that we think of as arriving with the computer actually begins with mechanical recording. Perceptions that have not and could not have been experienced by any human observer have been relatively familiar since Eadweard Muybridge set up his line of cameras at Leland Stanford's farm. The interposition of "machine languages" between the mind and physical phenomena began when James Watt first invented a primitive gauge to measure pressure variations in his steam engine. Saying so, however, is not meant to diminish the emphasis currently placed on new media. On the contrary, the purpose of historical connections of this kind is to extend the discussion so that it has less to do with the particular powers and limitations of the computer and more to do with the whole issue of mechanical mediation in general, an issue we should understand at least a bit since it has been with us for so long.

5. Some of that understanding is encoded in the works of literary and artistic modernism, which can largely be defined, I think, by the influence of mechanical mediation on the old media. Of course, anything so complicated and various as an aesthetic movement must be the result of innumerable influences, some of them too obscure, some too near to be visible. But if modernism is to serve as a general term at all, if it is to remain serviceable in all the disciplines that use it while still defining its subject in historical and formal terms, then I think it must take very seriously the significant formal innovations provided by material history itself, especially those provided by the new media that followed the photograph. This does not mean, at least to me, that the nature of human experience changed at some point in time, influenced by speed, industrial organization, or the mechanization of the senses. I agree with skeptics who feel that something as fundamental as eyesight or hearing does not change decade by decade, much less year by year. On the contrary, mechanized sense impressions could hardly have presented the challenge they did if they had not conflicted so obviously with what had come to be accepted as unmediated experience. The revelations that arise from that conflict seem to me to provide much of what still lives in modern literature and art, on which a general theory of the aesthetics of modernity might still be constructed.
6. None of this would be very interesting, however, if it did not also help us understand particular works of art. There is not much point in providing historical background merely for its own sake or simply to confirm received opinion about familiar works. For me, in fact, this project began with particular works, some of them **utterly unread**, like *The Readies* of Bob Brown, some of them **securely canonized** but little read, like Dos Passos's *U.S.A.*, and some of them, most obviously including *The Great Gatsby*, almost **painfully familiar**. I cannot say the works **ultimately considered** here make up an exhaustive or inevitable list, but I do hope the mix of unknown and familiar works will at least pose a significant test for the ideas proposed here, which should, if they have any relevance at all, shed the sort of light that makes obscure works seem interesting and **common touchstones** a little different.
76. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
- Aesthetic modernism is not as revolutionary as new media.
 - The allure of early modernist innovations has gradually palled.
 - New forms of media have led to the decline of modern art forms.
 - New media will meet its demise like aesthetic modernism did.
77. The writer mentions Bob Brown's idea of the reading machine in *The Readies* to make the point that
- new media might rip apart the fabric of society.
 - we care less about innovation than people used to.
 - current reactions to new media are anything but new.
 - his idea had great potential to become mainstream.
78. The writer regrets the fact that undue emphasis has been placed on
- the role of photographs in the world of art.
 - the process by which photographs are created.
 - the impact photography has on technological progress.
 - the ability of photographs to be quickly circulated.
79. What does the writer say about mechanical recording?
- It became an inspiration for new media.
 - It enhanced our perception capabilities.
 - It revolutionized the way we process information.
 - It contributed to humankind's development.
80. In the fifth paragraph, the writer makes the concession that
- mechanical mediation is not the sole driver of modernism.
 - the term 'modernism' may be unsuitable for interdisciplinary usage.

- C. what it really means to be human will never change.
D. mechanically reproduced experiences can feel inauthentic.
81. The writer views the difference between mechanized and unmediated experiences as
A. a necessary result of mechanical mediation. B. a stimulus for the growth of modernism.
C. a tension deeply ingrained in human biology. D. an interference that will unlikely disappear.
82. It can be inferred from the writer's references to literary works in the sixth paragraph that
A. those who are widely read might enjoy his selection.
B. some works should have been given more prominence.
C. renown does not directly translate to active readership.
D. they are highly representative of modernism in literature.
83. Which **bold and underlined** phrase echoes "**common touchstones**" in the sixth paragraph?
A. utterly unread B. securely canonized
C. painfully familiar D. ultimately considered
84. Which theme recurs in this text?
A. the need to prioritise function over form
B. the need to establish a historical continuity
C. the need to re-evaluate the merits of some inventions
D. the need to be skeptical of an overhyped phenomenon
85. In this passage, the writer's aim is to
A. defend a proposition. B. illustrate a point.
C. compare arguments. D. describe developments.

Your answers:

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

Part 5. For questions 86–95, read a magazine article and choose from the sections A–F. The sections may be chosen more than once. Write the correct letter A–F in the corresponding numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet.

UNDERSTANDING VAN DYCK

- A. Since the days of his own brilliant career, few have disputed the claim that the work of Anthony Van Dyck (1599–1641), the Dutch portrait painter, is a touchstone of artistic excellence. Yet despite his status as a prince of painters, he is difficult to enjoy. Successful recent shows of other well-known painters – Monet, de Hooch, Vermeer – all allowed an easy point of entry for the non-specialist. These artists' most striking features – immediate visual charm or glamour, appealing domestic subjects or intrigue – are things we can relate to.
- B. But Van Dyck is more awkward. There are two big stumbling blocks to enjoyment of his work. One is the absence of drama, both at the level of theme and technique. In his best works there is almost nothing going on; there is no story. The second problem concerns the psychology of his portraits. He paints aristocrats and paints them aristocratically. His studio served as an informal salon where his sitters could meet in an atmosphere of cultivated elegance. He presents them as they no doubt loved to see themselves self-possessed, virtuous and refined; hardly the aspects of character which are thought enticing today.

- C. To those of us whose education is more literary than visual, looking at pictures in terms of narrative comes easily. Even if we don't go into a gallery bristling with information about the myths, symbols and morals of past times, we find it easy enough to get interested when they are explained to us. Similarly, we have been taught to enjoy the texture of paint applied to the grainy surface of canvas. Impressionism has taught us to attend to the gorgeous broken surface of pictures. Van Dyck offers us little delectation of this kind – his treatment of the picture is smooth, his handling of the brush discreet.
- D. There is, however, a less familiar feature of painting at which Van Dyck excels: composition. Consider the double portrait of himself and his friend John Digby, the Earl of Bristol. Studying it with composition in mind, we might be struck by the contrast between the broad, straight-on volume of Digby and the more slender, oblique presentation of the artist. The painter's dark cloak contrasts with his pale skin; the Earl's darker-toned complexion is set off by his lighter garments. Analysis in this vein shows us that the picture is an intricate array of volumes, masses, contours and planes. The viewer's sense of the cohesion and balance of the picture also rests in part upon the psychological intimacy of the two men. Van Dyck's paintings are wonderfully poised. This achievement, the integration of form and content, is a keynote of the art of painting. Van Dyck has produced a fine presentation of something deep and engaging: the relationship between two men.
- E. Consider also the issue of idealisation. In Van Dyck's portrait of the Balbi children, three boys, magnificently dressed, stand on a portico. The youngest holds a small bird, probably a family emblem. The eldest is already suave and courtier-like; the middle son is martial and forthright and looks with admiration at his older brother. The boys are ideals of aristocratic virtue. Critics argue that such images serve to present the holders of high office (the parents of these paragons, and the boys in later life) as actually possessing the degree of virtue, sincerity, composure and sensitivity with which they are credited in the painting, so deflecting from a more unsettling account of their power – a power that was arbitrary, maintained by force and unaccountable. But idealisation has its place. It functions by selecting an attractive quality and exaggerating it. We know the world is not like that, but we engage for a while in a vision of a world and of human nature 'more beautiful and sweet than ours'. Modern enjoyment of Van Dyck requires cultivation of our instincts for grace and dignity – instincts which tend not to be encouraged in contemporary culture. One of the cruellest kinds of aesthetic tyranny is the insistence that we must be of our time and only of our time.
- F. We are often encouraged to feel that, if we are interested in art, we ought to be interested in all art. But searching out a temperamental affinity with the ambitions of a particular painter puts this hope in question. Compliant, well-behaved creatures that most of us are in the art gallery, we tend to cajole ourselves into the right sort of response. We should be confident enough to accept that there will be works of great merit to which we will be unable to respond.

In which section are the following mentioned?

- a departure from perceived norms
- art as a fleeting escape from reality
- a tendency to flatter individuals' self-image
- the view that art should only reflect modern sensibility
- an attempt to conform to general consensus
- arranging elements to build underlying harmony

Your answers:

86.
87.
88.
89.
90.
91.

- choice of subject hindering deep appreciation
- good repute being unrelated to public appeal
- a prerequisite to a full understanding of Van Dyck's art
- a lack of impact to the modern eye

92.

93.

94.

95.

III. WRITING (5.0 POINTS)

Part 1. Read the following texts and summarise in your own words as far as possible the key points of both texts. Your summary should be between 120 and 150 words.

Text 1

When writing a novel a writer should create living people; people not characters. A *character* is a caricature. If a writer can make people live there may be no great characters in his book, but it is possible that his book will remain as a whole; as an entity; as a novel. If the people the writer is making talk of old masters; of music; of modern painting; of letters; or of science then they should talk of those subjects in the novel. If they do not talk of those subjects and the writer makes them talk of them he is a faker, and if he talks about them himself to show how much he knows then he is showing off. No matter how good a phrase or a simile he may have if he puts it in where it is not absolutely necessary and irreplaceable he is spoiling his work for egotism. For a writer to put his own intellectual musings, which he might sell for a low price as essays, into the mouths of artificially constructed characters which are more remunerative when issued as people in a novel is good economics, perhaps, but does not make literature. People in a novel, not skilfully constructed characters, must be projected from the writer's assimilated experience, from his knowledge, from his head, from his heart and from all there is of him. If he ever has luck as well as seriousness and gets them out entire they will have more than one dimension and they will last a long time.

Text 2

If only for the sake of brevity and conciseness in a short story, the choice of the correct words in every phrase is of primary importance. Editors and their public are after the story and they want that story in as few words as possible, consistent with its being convincing. Those words, therefore, had better be the right ones. In this connexion it is good practice to write a description of a man or a woman and then see how much you can 'boil it down'. When you have arrived at one or two words which convey the full description, you will know that you have succeeded.

Let me urge the beginner not to use too many adjectives, and never to have a string of them following so closely in a context as to seem to be constituting a list. In poetry, adjectives are viewed with suspicion. The same may be said to apply to the short story. Never use adjectives unnecessarily. When a man is 'bad', do not tell us that he is a 'bad man'; tell us that he is a man and show him being bad. Do not use the obvious adjective. Do not write 'blue' in front of 'skies'. Most of us have learnt by this time that the sky is not lavender. Avoid those adjectives which are commonly used in juxtaposition to certain nouns. 'Fearful temper', 'terrible tragedy', 'immaculate evening dress', etc. These adjectives, when allied to these nouns, have come to mean nothing. Instead choose an adjective with real meaning. Instead of 'fearful' use 'unhealthy' or 'insane' or 'uncontrolled'. They mean so much more than 'fearful', since 'fearful temper' is a cliché.

Part 2. Write an essay of at least 300 words on the following topic:

In just twenty years, every book we read, every painting we view, and every song we listen to will be produced by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this prediction?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Springboard
English

You may write overleaf if you need more space.

Great appreciation to authors of published works of which adaptations have been made in this test paper!

– THE END –



SPRINGBOARD EDUCATION

HƯỚNG DẪN CHẤM
Đề luyện tập số 03

KỲ THI THỬ CHỌN 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 phát đề)

Ngày thi thứ nhất: .../.../202...

Hướng dẫn chấm thi gồm **3** trang

I. LISTENING (5.0 points)

Part 1. (0.2 points per correct answer)

1. S	2. J	3. B	4. B	5. S
------	------	------	------	------

Part 2. (0.2 points per correct answer)

6. E	7. B	8. A	9. G	10. I
------	------	------	------	-------

Part 3. (0.2 points per correct answer)

11. B	12. D	13. B	14. B	15. C
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

Part 4. (0.2 points per correct answer)

16. unexplored universe	17. immense pressure
18. extraordinary, otherworldly creatures	19. millions of interconnected clones
20. flat and featureless seabed	21. remote and inaccessible crevices
22. a dumping ground	23. antibiotic resistance
24. marine photosynthesizers / photosynthesizers	25. drop in the ocean

II. READING (8.0 points)

II.1. LANGUAGE IN USE (3.0 points)

Part 1. (0.1 points per correct answer)

26. C	27. C	28. D	29. A	30. A
31. B	32. D	33. D	34. A	35. D

Part 2. (0.2 points per correct answer – 0.1 points per correct root, 0.1 points per correct word form)

36. vital → revitalisation / revitalization	37. danger → endangerment
38. much → Inasmuch	39. fulfill → non(-)fulfillment / non(-)fulfilment
40. communicate → incommunicable	

Part 3. (0.2 points per correct answer – 0.1 points per identified error, 0.1 points per accurate correction)

The truth are that nobody really knows how language first began. Did we all start talking at around the same time, regardless of the manner with which our brains had begun to develop?

As there is a lack of clear evidence, people have come up with various theories about the origins of language. One recent theory is that human beings have evolved in such a way that we are programmed for language from the moment of birth. In other words, language came about as a result of an evolutionary change in our brains at some stage.

Language might as well be programmed into the brain but, despite this, people still need stimulus from others around them. From studies, we know that if children are isolated from human contact and have not learnt to construct sentences before they are ten, it is doubtful that they will ever do so. This research shows, if anything else, that language is a social activity, not something invented in isolation.

41. regardless → because	42. with → in
43. As → Although / Though / Even though	44. might as well → might well
45. if anything else → if nothing / little else OR if anything	

II.2. READING COMPREHENSION (5.0 points)

Part 1. (0.1 points per correct answer)

46. print	47. away	48. Whatever	49. thereof	50. way
51. roof	52. ever	53. hand	54. legal	55. otherwise

Part 2. (0.1 points per correct answer)

56. Y	57. N	58. Y	59. Y	60. NG	61. NG	62. Y	63. N
64. surface likeness		65. bearing witness			66. low-grade operatives		
67. avoiding clichés		68. constant snapping					

Part 3. (0.1 points per correct answer)

69. H	70. B	71. F	72. C	73. E	74. A	75. D
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Part 4. (0.1 points per correct answer)

76. B	77. C	78. D	79. C	80. A
81. B	82. B	83. C	84. B	85. A

Part 5. (0.1 points per correct answer)

86. C	87. E	88. B	89. E	90. F
91. D	92. B	93. A	94. E	95. C

III. WRITING (5.0 points)

Part 1. (2.0 points)

Contents (1.5 points)

The summary should:

- introduce the topic of both texts,
- present the main ideas of both texts.

Language use (0.5 points)

The summary should:

- demonstrate a wide variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures,
- have correct use of words and mechanics,
- maintain coherence, cohesion and unity throughout.

Part 2. (3.0 points)

Task response (1.0 point)

The essay should:

- sufficiently address all requirements of the task,
- develop relevant supporting ideas with explanations, examples, evidence, etc.

Organisation (1.0 point)

The essay should have:

- *an introduction* presenting a clear thesis statement introducing the points to be developed,
- *body paragraphs* developing the points mentioned in the introduction,
- *a conclusion* summarising the main points discussed in the essay.

Language use (1.0 point)

The essay should:

- demonstrate a wide variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures,
- have correct use of words and mechanics,
- maintain coherence, cohesion and unity throughout.

THE END OF THE MARK SCHEME

- *Examiners should discuss the mark scheme before marking.*
- *The mark scheme may be expanded with other appropriate answers.*

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 **19** 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 part of a discussion in which a speaker is discussing minimalism, 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.

Audio - [▶ What does minimalism really mean? | A-Z of ISMs Episode 13 - BBC Ideas](#)

- Minimalism as a concept extends beyond lifestyle choices and encompasses various fields.
- The rise of minimalism in architecture directly influenced the development of minimalist music composition techniques.
- Minimalist music is characterized by complex harmonies and intricate melodies that create an impressive auditory experience.
- The philosophy of minimalism often emerges as a reaction against excess and complexity.
- Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's "less is more" philosophy was a response to the increasing complexity of urban living in the mid-20th century.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
----	----	----	----	----

Part 2. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS taken from the recording for each answer in the spaces provided.

Audio -  **How Relationships Reveal Our True Selves**

6. Which adjectives characterize the negative traits that a relationship helps us avoid?

7. How might our story appear when seen through our partners' eyes?

8. Quitting which activity illustrates human impatience in giving and receiving feedback?

9. What purpose do words like "perhaps" and "maybe" serve?

10. Given the importance of the psychological dimension in a relationship, what should we share with our partners as gently and kindly as possible?

Part 3. For questions 11–15, you will hear part of a radio phone-in programme about consumer competitions that appear in magazines or are run by shops, in which advice is given to people who regularly enter them. 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.

Audio -  **Part 3.wma**

11. Why has Diana decided to call in?
 - A. She believes she has been treated unfairly.
 - B. She is hesitant to seek legal advice at this stage.
 - C. She is concerned that she may have misinterpreted an agreement.
 - D. She wishes to avoid a falling-out with her closest friend.
12. What point does Kathy make in response to Diana's situation?
 - A. It is an uncommon dilemma without a straightforward solution.
 - B. Diana should have exercised greater caution in dealing with her friend.
 - C. It is regrettable that Diana's friend has taken such a stance.
 - D. Pursuing legal action would ultimately be a decision she might regret.
13. What does Kathy say to Ron regarding the use of multiple names in competitions?
 - A. Individuals who attempt this are frequently discovered.
 - B. It can have a negative impact on the overall quality of submissions.
 - C. There are few legitimate situations in which this might be acceptable.
 - D. It is relatively rare for entrants to make such a choice.
14. What prompted Stan to call into the programme?
 - A. He was dissatisfied with how a previous complaint was addressed.

- B. He was confused by the terms and conditions of a contest.
- C. He suspected that he had received misleading or incorrect information.
- D. He sought greater transparency regarding competition outcomes.

15. What does Kathy explain to Stan about the competition he participated in?

- A. Certain elements of the instructions could be interpreted in multiple ways.
- B. The contest rules allow for outcomes that may seem unreasonable.
- C. The organisers intentionally created confusion to deceive entrants.
- D. It is the kind of competition that participants are generally advised to avoid.

Your answers:

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Part 4. For questions 16–25, listen to part of a talk about journalism, and complete the following summary. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS taken from the recording for each blank. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Audio - [▶ What is the future of journalism? | A-Z of ISMs Episode 10 - BBC Ideas](#)

Journalism, a product of modern history, is molded by the politics of its environment. The importance of knowledge, the freedom of expression, and the societal benefit of reliable information are the basis of this notion. From the advent of (16) _____ and photography to the digital era with social media and the internet, technological innovations have driven its evolution.

Historically, journalism has transformed from medieval scribes recording taxes to (17) _____ in coffee shops engaging in political battles, and then to (18) _____ utilizing trains and telephones to disseminate news. Instances where journalism exposes difficult truths include the coming to light of the Holocaust as well as (19) _____.

The landscape of journalism is rapidly changing. (20) _____ now generate bot journalism, while citizens broadcast news via their phones. Algorithms crafted by tech behemoths influence the flow of news, resulting in (21) _____ that is often (22) _____. This has left the public confused about what to trust and uncertain about the truth, exacerbating fears of online bias and conflict.

In this era, (23) _____ and unscrupulous people with shared vested interests exploit the term "fake news" to undermine journalists and mislead the public, thereby underscoring the need for (24) _____. The digital age presents an opportunity for journalism to reinvent itself, utilizing modern gadgets like (25) _____.

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. He simplified the explanation of this theory into _____ terms so that it could easily be understood.
A. amateur's B. layman's C. specialist's D. expert's
27. His dream of becoming a famous actor was merely a _____ - there was no chance he would ever succeed.
A. cosmos B. corridor C. chimera D. capacity
28. Despite being unelected, senior civil servants often exert significant influence over government decisions, operating quietly within _____.
A. the pillars of society B. the corridors of power
C. the chambers of commerce D. the wheels of justice
29. His so-called scientific theories are the _____ of fantasy - there is no way they can be proved.
A. material B. stuff C. substance D. fabric
30. The criminal was so clever at disguising himself that it took the police months to _____ him down.
A. track B. search C. trace D. bring
31. I was _____ when I heard that the MP for Burnham had been arrested for fraud.
A. levelled B. floored C. hurled D. stupefied
32. It is not even _____ possible that this popular TV series will be taken off the air.
A. distantly B. considerably C. plausibly D. remotely
33. He didn't mean to be offensive; it was quite an _____ remark.
A. innocuous B. inaugural C. integral D. insidious
34. Despite the dangers and harsh terrain, _____ who attempted the climb spoke of its breathtaking beauty.
A. many a mountaineers B. much mountaineers
C. many a mountaineer D. many of mountaineers
35. The _____ of the river were so steep that they had to row for several miles before they could go ashore.
A. banks B. coasts C. streams D. ports

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.

In an era defined by boundless access and _____ (36. **CONNECT**), one might assume that the proliferation of choices equates to greater freedom and satisfaction. Paradoxically, the surfeit of options—once a symbol of affluence and autonomy—now often precipitates anxiety, paralysis, and discontent. Psychologists have coined this phenomenon the "paradox of choice," contending that while a certain degree of variety is liberating, an overabundance can be deeply _____ (37. **PRODUCE**).

Modern consumers, inundated by a deluge of alternatives, frequently find themselves ensnared in a cycle of incessant comparison. From selecting a health insurance plan to choosing a toothpaste brand, each decision is fraught with the fear of _____ (38. **OPTIMIZE**) choice. The resultant cognitive overload not only hampers decisiveness but can also engender chronic dissatisfaction, as individuals ruminate over the imagined superiority of the options they eschewed.

This tendency is exacerbated by the performative nature of contemporary life, wherein individuals feel compelled to curate every decision—be it mundane or momentous—as part of a personal brand. Social media platforms, rife with curated perfection, amplify the stakes of choice-making, insinuating that every selection is a _____ (39. **REFER**) on one's taste, intelligence, or success.

Yet, amidst this cacophony of alternatives, a _____ (40. **CURRENT**) is emerging. Some advocate for "voluntary simplicity," an ethos that valorizes intentionality over abundance. By embracing fewer, more meaningful choices, adherents claim to reclaim a sense of agency and inner peace long obfuscated by excess.

Ultimately, the question arises: is it the quantity of choices that liberates us—or the wisdom to discern which ones truly matter.

Your answers:

36. _____

37. _____

38. _____

39. _____

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.

As many, the jury's still up on whether mobile phones can be dangerous to human health. For others, the safety hazards of radiation emanating from mobile phones is clear: a wide array of health problems, including cancer.

There are now billions of mobile phone users in the world. The mobile phone industry insists its products pose absolutely no threat to consumers. However, those researchers who speak out against this wisdom say there's virtually no doubt mobile phones can contribute to the development of conditions like depression, diabetes, cancer, heart irregularities and impair fertility. You don't know who to believe but want to err on the side of caution? Then, follow the advice experts give will minimise your exposure to electromagnetic radiation.

Just switch your mobile off whenever you can. As long as it's on, its radiation is emitting, somewhat intermittent.

Your answers:

E.g. As -> For

41. _____

42. _____

43. _____

44. _____

45. _____

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.

In a world increasingly dominated by digital filters and curated realities, the pursuit of perfection has (46) _____ from a personal ambition into a cultural expectation. Social media, in particular, has amplified this phenomenon, encouraging individuals to present an idealized version of their lives that often bears little resemblance (47) _____ reality.

Perfectionism, once regarded as a harmless drive for excellence, is now being re-examined through a more critical lens. Psychologists warn that it is (48) _____ longer a benign trait, but rather a potentially debilitating mindset that fosters anxiety, procrastination, and burnout. Many individuals struggle to complete tasks (49) _____ fear that their work will fall short of an impossible standard.

This relentless drive can be traced, in part, to societal pressures. People are often conditioned to conflate worth with achievement, to the (50) _____ that failure is not viewed as a stepping stone, but as a definitive verdict on one's character. In such a climate, mistakes are not just learning opportunities—they are liabilities to be (51) _____ at all costs.

Ironically, the more one strives for flawlessness, the more one becomes susceptible to feelings of inadequacy. The gap (52) _____ who we are and who we believe we ought to be becomes a source of chronic discontent.

A growing number of voices now advocate for a shift in perspective: from perfection to progress, from comparison to compassion. (53) _____ embracing imperfection, we reclaim the freedom to grow, fail, and try again—without shame.

After all, it is often (54) _____ our flaws and stumbles that we forge authenticity. The pursuit of perfection may be seductive, (55) _____ it is in our humanity that we are most compelling.

Your answers:

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

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

The Concept of Childhood in Western Societies

The historical understanding of childhood has sparked considerable academic interest, especially following the publication of *Centuries of Childhood* (1960) by French historian Philippe Ariès. In this influential work, Ariès controversially argued that the notion of “childhood” as a distinct stage of life is not timeless, but rather a relatively modern social construct.

One of the most contested issues in the history of childhood is whether the concept itself is a recent invention. Ariès proposed that, in Medieval Western Europe (up to the late 15th century), children were perceived as miniature adults, embodying adult-like intellect and temperament. His analysis of medieval diaries and visual depictions suggested there was little social differentiation between children and adults, especially in terms of work and recreation. However, Ariès emphasized that this did not equate to a lack of affection or concern. The concept of childhood, in his view, was rooted not in love for children, but in an awareness of their developmental distinctiveness from adults.

Historically, children fulfilled functional roles within the household economy. In medieval times, even very young children contributed through chores; by the 16th century, those as young as nine were often placed in domestic service or apprenticeships. The onset of industrialisation in the 18th and 19th centuries intensified this trend, as factories, mines, and workshops demanded a large, inexpensive labour force—often fulfilled by children. Social reformers soon questioned whether such laborious conditions were detrimental to children’s physical and psychological development, prompting more systematic studies on the matter.

Gradually, reform movements led to legal protections. In Britain, the Factory Act of 1833 marked a significant shift, establishing both legal restrictions on child labour and the introduction of “half-time schools” for working children. While these changes were meaningful, attendance remained inconsistent, and many children left school by age ten. Nevertheless, the perception of childhood began to shift. Children were increasingly viewed not as economic assets but as individuals undergoing a prolonged phase of dependency and learning. Work became secondary to schooling and play—once privileges of the wealthy, now seen as essential to all.

By the late 19th century, schooling had become central to the very definition of childhood in Britain. With compulsory education expanding, school life began to dominate children’s daily routines. The classroom came to represent a space where moral character and intellectual discipline were cultivated, separating children from the adult world of labour. Education extended its reach beyond the school day, through homework, extracurriculars, and growing expectations for parental involvement.

The emergence of mass schooling, urbanisation, and child welfare movements posed fresh challenges. Increasingly, children were seen as a group with unique developmental needs, best understood in terms of age-related stages. Educators and psychologists alike sought tools to assess children’s abilities, predict potential, and tailor instruction accordingly. Today, this age-based approach continues to influence how institutions categorize and support children’s growth and learning.

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. Philippe Ariès believed children performed different tasks than adults during the Middle Ages.
57. Children who worked in medieval times were often unloved by their families.
58. Some reformers suspected that excessive labour could harm children’s development.
59. Trade unions were the main drivers of child labour reform in the 19th century.
60. Half-time schools in the 1840s ensured widespread access to education for working children.
61. In the 20th century, full-time schooling became legally compulsory for all children.
62. Today, age plays a central role in how children’s needs are identified and managed.

For questions 63-68, answer the questions below using NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage.

63. What historical subject gained prominence after Ariès’s work was published?

64. What phrase did Ariès use to describe how medieval society perceived children?

65. What major force drove the need for child labour during the 18th and 19th centuries?

66. What piece of legislation marked a turning point in Britain's protection of children?

67. What two things became key aspects of everyday life for all children in the 19th century?

68. Where did children spend most of their structured time during the school day?

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.

There is little dispute that a university education yields substantial economic rewards. On average, degree holders earn significantly more over their lifetimes than those without a tertiary qualification, and their unemployment rates tend to be approximately half as high. In the United States, some studies suggest that obtaining a university degree nearly doubles lifetime earnings.

69

Similarly, it cannot be the sole metric by which we assess the value of a university experience. Take, for example, Amy—a high-achieving graduate from a top-tier business school who joined a prestigious Wall Street investment firm, facilitating billion-dollar transactions on a global scale. By the standards of market-driven evaluation, Amy was the epitome of educational success, hitting the ground running.

70

She thrived in this high-pressure environment and earned glowing performance reviews. Her compensation packages were generous and climbing, and she was poised for swift advancement. Yet, despite all the trappings of success, she began to detect a void—something intangible and entirely unrelated to income or institutional recognition.

71

Her formal education had certainly trained her to excel professionally, but not to derive a sense of purpose from her work. She observed that many colleagues, despite their impressive résumés and lifestyles, were fundamentally dissatisfied. Lavish salaries and luxury items had done little to mask their disillusionment. When confronted, they would often concede their unhappiness but rationalise it with comments like, “Of course I hate my job, but I can’t walk away. The money is just too good.”

72

Nonetheless, the trade-off proved worthwhile. She now engages in work that she finds genuinely meaningful—offering care and compassion to patients in need. From a financial perspective, her decision may appear ruinous. Yet from a human standpoint, it has been deeply enriching.

73

This narrative underscores a vital truth: the ultimate value of university is not merely to generate a workforce suited to the unforgiving realities of the global marketplace.

74

Of course, such financial realities cannot be ignored. In the United States, student debt can be crippling. The average 2012 graduate left university nearly \$30,000 in debt, with some medical graduates owing over \$300,000. No student or parent begins this journey expecting unemployment or underemployment.

75

Indeed, while our careers consume much of our adult lives, we also seek fulfilment in unpaid endeavours: raising children, cultivating friendships, exploring creative passions, and pursuing meaningful causes. At its best, higher education does not simply prepare us for the labour market—it helps us explore what it means to live well and fully.

Missing Paragraphs:

A.	Yet that is precisely what Amy chose to do. She returned to school and began studying medicine. The decision came at a steep price—more than ten years of her life and hundreds of thousands of dollars in tuition and lost income.
B.	However, there are significant limitations to viewing university education purely through the lens of economic return. While employment outcomes matter, they are hardly the only factors that make a life well lived.
C.	Graduate job placement rates, average starting salaries, and long-term earning potential are certainly relevant. These metrics are practical, even necessary—but they offer an incomplete picture.
D.	In truth, higher education was never intended to be an elite pursuit. It was designed to foster

	civic engagement, ethical responsibility, and cultural literacy.
E.	Every day presented her with intellectually demanding tasks—complex financial modelling, strategic decision-making, and high-level communication. Her business education had prepared her well for the technical demands of the job.
F.	This story reveals a deeper insight about the purpose of higher education. At its core, university should help individuals discern their values and reflect on the kind of contribution they wish to make in the world.
G.	At its finest, education is transformative. It pushes us to question assumptions, refine our identities, and develop practices that give life depth and significance.
H.	Her colleagues' frustrations were palpable. Though well-dressed and well-compensated, they expressed quiet misery. Their lives looked successful on paper, but felt empty in reality.

Part 4. For questions 76-85, read a passage on the *Decameron* 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.

Could Short-Form Video Rival the Traditional Cinema?

Alongside its meteoric rise in popularity, my own fascination with YouTube has intensified into a near-compulsive preoccupation. Entire evenings—originally earmarked for focused writing—are frequently derailed by an irresistible urge to open a browser, from which the path to YouTube is inevitable. And who can blame me? Whether crudely improvised or remarkably polished, the finest of these short-form films possess an unfiltered immediacy and authenticity largely absent from cinema or television.

As internet consumption begins to eclipse traditional TV viewing for a growing portion of the population, it's not implausible to imagine that this grassroots mode of filmmaking might evolve into a formidable rival to conventional cinema. Indeed, a number of contemporary directors have begun embracing a visual aesthetic inspired by YouTube—marked by unembellished, static shots with a deadpan, surveillance-like detachment—reflecting the sensibilities of a digital generation.

Surprisingly, cinema itself has flirted with some of YouTube's stylistic trademarks. The viral success of *The Blair Witch Project*, for instance, was amplified by an internet campaign that blurred fiction and reality, suggesting—albeit falsely—that the horror depicted was genuine. Similarly, numerous “confessional” YouTube vlogs have turned out to be meticulously scripted performances. In an earlier era, some documentaries shared YouTube's participatory ethos, as subjects filmed themselves and relied on

professionals to shape the final product. Today, such storytellers would likely bypass traditional intermediaries and upload their work directly to YouTube.

Perhaps the most striking convergence between cinema and YouTube lies in the use of the continuous shot—a lingering, impartial gaze that neither edits nor interprets. The most compelling YouTube content is rarely scripted or polished; rather, it is the raw, uninterrupted footage that captivates, precisely because it unfolds in real time. From quiet domestic incidents to dramatic global events, these long takes are both mesmerising and unnerving.

Many filmmakers have attempted to replicate this hypnotic and often unsettling aesthetic. But arguably, what they overlook is YouTube’s accidental genius—its unintentional comedy. Some of the most extraordinary clips are the result of pure happenstance. Take, for example, security camera footage from a crowded bar, in which a woman suddenly vanishes through a trapdoor left open behind her. The framing is impeccable, the timing perfect—Buster Keaton himself could not have orchestrated it better. The spontaneity and precision of such moments are virtually impossible to manufacture.

Another element where YouTube diverges sharply from traditional cinema is in the immediacy of its feedback mechanisms. Each video is subject to open ratings and unfiltered commentary. Unlike formal film criticism, which dissects performance, plot, and production values, YouTube viewers focus on simple metrics: Was it entertaining? Would you watch it again? Would you share it? The reviewing process is as democratic and candid as the content itself.

At its best, YouTube embodies a kind of amateur ethos that liberates it from the narrative conventions and aesthetic norms of commercial cinema. Its allure lies not just in the content, but in the participatory nature of its consumption. Viewers become curators and distributors, shaping the platform as much as the creators do. Unless the cinema world is willing to learn from this collaborative, decentralised model, it risks becoming increasingly irrelevant.

76. What does the writer express about his relationship with YouTube in the opening paragraph?

- A. He finds it enhances his productivity while working.
- B. He consciously chooses it over mainstream cinema.
- C. He finds himself repeatedly distracted by its appeal.
- D. He values the brevity of its video content.

77. Why does the writer believe YouTube may rival traditional cinema?

- A. It captures moments when people are unaware they’re being filmed.
- B. It reflects a shift in how people engage with visual media.
- C. It requires less time commitment than conventional films.

D. It provides a platform for real people to share authentic stories.

78. In the context of paragraph one, what is the meaning of *unfiltered immediacy*?

- A. direct
- B. surreal
- C. expertly produced
- D. enchanting

79. What similarity does the writer draw between cinema and YouTube in paragraph three?

- A. Both produce compelling horror content.
- B. Both often feature actor-directors.
- C. Both rely on viral marketing techniques.
- D. Both blur the line between fiction and authenticity.

80. What is the closest synonym for *lingering gaze* in paragraph four?

- A. pressed
- B. terrorised
- C. forced
- D. coerced

81. What is the closest meaning of *unnerving* in paragraph five?

- A. impressive
- B. unsettling
- C. helpful
- D. overpowering

82. What makes the continuous shot so powerful, according to the writer?

- A. Its events unfold without manipulation or commentary.
- B. It works equally well in all storytelling contexts.
- C. It exposes behind-the-scenes action.
- D. It replicates how human vision operates.

83. Why does the writer describe the CCTV footage in the bar?

- A. To show how YouTube sources content from unexpected places.
- B. To illustrate how genuine humour is often impossible to stage.
- C. To argue that comedy is best when it's candid and unedited.
- D. To compare YouTube slapstick with classic silent films.

84. Why are questions used in paragraph six?

- A. To critique how formal film reviews are written.
- B. To highlight the straightforward nature of viewer feedback.
- C. To propose better metrics for film analysis.
- D. To show the variety of online opinions.

85. What does the writer conclude about YouTube's appeal?

- A. It attracts a vast and growing audience.
- B. It succeeds due to its boundary-pushing content.
- C. It surpasses cinema in artistic quality.
- D. It empowers audiences to shape what is seen and shared.

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.

Prairie Fever: Aristocrats on the American Frontier

A.

The peculiar phenomenon of British aristocrats establishing enclaves in the American West during the 19th century represents one of the more eccentric chapters in the broader narrative of U.S. immigration. This intriguing saga is brought to life in *Prairie Fever*, a compelling work by BBC documentary veteran Peter Pagnamenta. Enticed by romanticised portrayals of the untamed frontier—through the writings of James Fennimore Cooper and the legendary escapades of figures like Wild Bill Hickok—these upper-class émigrés sought not merely to witness America, but to remake it in their own image. In outposts bearing familiar names such as Runnymede and Victoria, they endeavoured to create bastions of Britishness, determined that at least one corner of the vast American prairie would remain forever England.

B.

The influx began in the 1830s, led by adventurous sportsmen and thrill-seekers. Among them was Sir William Stewart, a Scottish veteran of Waterloo, who spent seven years journeying through the Rockies, consorting with mountain men, and surviving encounters with bears and Native tribes. His associate, Charles Murray—scion of the Earl of Dunmore—briefly cohabited with the Pawnee and endured the indignity of having his dog consumed by his hosts. He redeemed himself, however, by triumphing in rock-throwing contests thanks to his Highland Games training. Unfortunately, few of their successors exhibited such adaptability. Many aristocrats treated local customs with undisguised disdain. Sir George Gore epitomised such arrogance, undertaking a lavish, \$100,000 hunting tour from Missouri that allegedly decimated over 6,000 buffalo, severely jeopardising Indigenous food supplies. Their palpable air of superiority eventually drew widespread American resentment.

C.

By the 1870s, the locals' grievances extended beyond mere snobbery—the British now aspired to settle permanently. Recognising the untapped potential of the West, Britain's upper classes increasingly dispatched their less fortunate younger sons to seek fortune and relevance in Kansas and Iowa. America, eager for settlers to cultivate its prairie states, welcomed them enthusiastically. The British press followed this emigration with interest: *The Times* lauded the colonists' cheerful demeanor and purposeful lives. Yet shrewder commentators observed a fundamental incompatibility: the newcomers failed to internalise the

American work ethic. Farming, for them, was subordinate to leisure and sport—a mindset that would prove costly.

D.

The American interior was already a mosaic of ethnic enclaves—communities of Danes, Germans, and others coalescing around shared heritage. In 1873, George Grant, a Scottish gentleman farmer, envisioned a colony of British gentry in Kansas, restricted to those possessing no less than £2,000 and granted a full square mile of land each. The settlement—patriotically named Victoria—was romanticised as a ‘Second Eden’. However, the reality of frontier life swiftly dismantled such illusions. With punishing heat, long droughts, and relentless grasshopper plagues, the pampered aristocrats—many of whom had never held a plough—struggled to survive. Though mocked by locals as “remittance men” (a nod to their dependence on family allowances), the colonists persisted with surprising resolve.

E.

Ultimately, most of these noble ventures ended in failure, and many of the disillusioned gentry returned home. However, it was their foray into large-scale ranching that irrevocably soured American tolerance. Drawn by the prospect of vast profits, affluent British investors began acquiring enormous swathes of land—one individual alone amassing 1.75 million acres and 100,000 cattle. What had once seemed quaintly aristocratic now appeared threatening. American politicians exploited growing xenophobia, stoking fears that the British were monopolising frontier wealth. Allegations even emerged that some landowners referred to their ranch hands as “cow-servants.” In response, Congress enacted the Alien Land Act, limiting foreign ownership to 5,000 acres and formally ending Britain’s prairie experiment.

Adapted from Đề Đề Xuất DHBB 2023 - Chuyên Sơn La

In which sections are the following mentioned?

Your answers:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • the settlers failed to embrace the American value of industriousness? | 86. _____ |
| • the settlers’ intention to recreate British customs and culture in a foreign land? | 87. _____ |
| • class exclusivity was deliberately engineered into one specific settlement? | 88. _____ |
| • some colonists remained economically dependent on family support? | 89. _____ |
| • a cultural clash in which a settler’s expectations were clearly violated? | 90. _____ |
| • the settlers’ increasing wealth triggered political backlash? | 91. _____ |
| • America offered a practical solution to a British social dilemma? | 92. _____ |
| • a report that offered a naively optimistic portrayal of colonial life? | 93. _____ |
| • the settlers’ romantic notions were shattered by harsh realities? | 94. _____ |
| • the contemptuous attitude that many British newcomers had towards locals? | 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.

In the 1960s, researcher John Calhoun placed a population of rats in a confined environment and observed how their social structure rapidly deteriorated. The rats exhibited extreme behavioural pathology—violence, sexual coercion, and eventually cannibalism. Calhoun dubbed this collapse the “behavioural sink.”

The term quickly gained traction. Commentators began drawing parallels between the rats’ descent and human society, likening inner-city conditions and politically charged riots to overcrowded rodent colonies. In 1970, science writer Robert Ardrey warned that voluntary human crowding could drive civilization toward either anarchy or authoritarianism. The supposed psychological toll of dense living soon became a cornerstone of popular theories on aggression.

Yet extrapolating directly from rodents to humans is a substantial leap. For instance, comparing homicide rates with population density across nations reveals no clear correlation. Among developed free-market countries, the United States has one of the highest per capita murder rates—despite its relatively low population density.

To examine how other primates respond to crowding, we compared rhesus monkeys confined to small cages with those roaming freely on Morgan Island, South Carolina. We also observed chimpanzees in indoor enclosures versus large, forested islands. Contrary to expectations, no consistent crowding effects emerged. In fact, primates in confined spaces often became more social, increasing grooming behaviours—likely as a means to preempt conflict. Nonhuman primates are, it turns out, highly skilled at managing tension and maintaining group harmony.

This suggests that crowding alone may not be the root of social breakdown. The real issue—both for rats and humans—appears to be resource distribution. In Calhoun’s experiments, violence was concentrated around limited food sources. For human societies, the greater concern should not be population density, but sustainability and equitable access to resources.

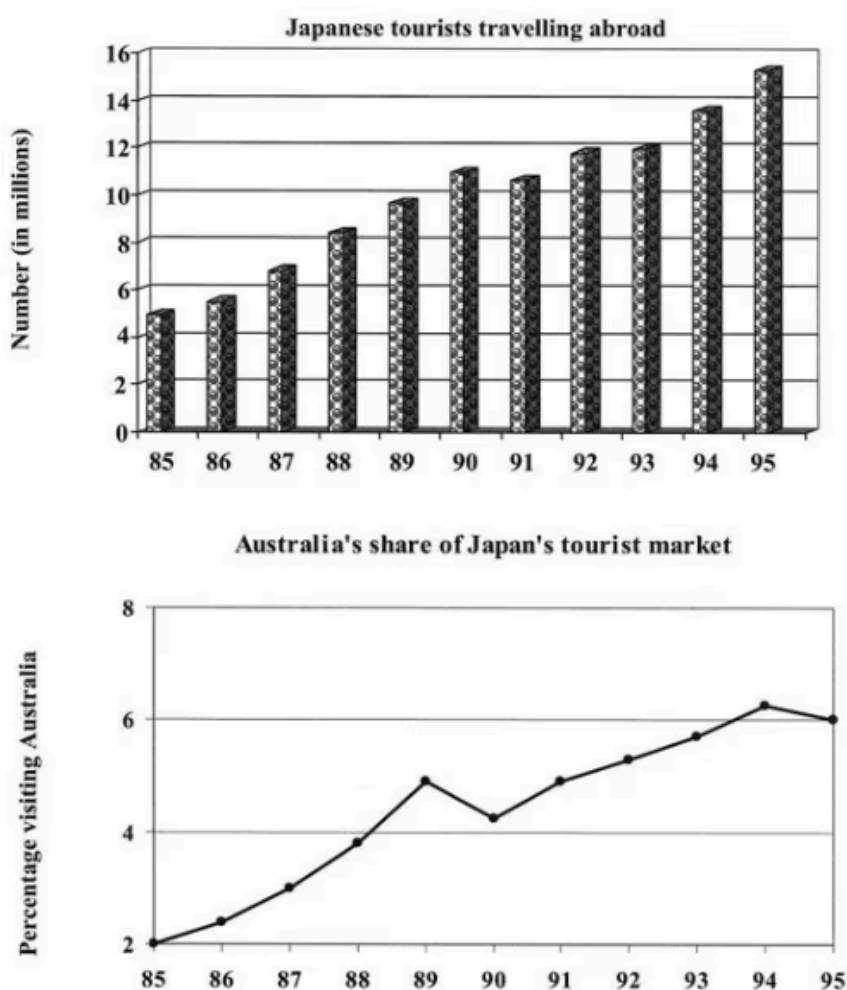
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Part 2. The charts below show the number of Japanese tourists travelling abroad between 1985 and 1995 and Australia's share of the Japanese tourist market.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. You should write about 150 words.



Part 3. Write an essay of about 350 words on the following topic.

Online communities often "cancel" public figures for past actions or statements. Supporters view this as holding people accountable; critics argue it stifles dialogue and growth.

Is cancel culture a form of social justice or a threat to free expression?

Springboard
English

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

- GOOD LUCK, AND DO NOT CRY -

Springboard
English

SPRINGBOARD EDUCATION

ĐỀ THI LUYỆN TẬP

KỶ 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 **19** 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 part of a discussion in which a speaker is discussing minimalism, 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.

1. T	2. NG	3. F	4. T	5. NG
------	-------	------	------	-------

Part 2. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** taken from the recording for each answer in the spaces provided.

- obtuse, haughty, peculiar
- patchy
- measured conversation
- soften our verdicts
- our heartened insights

Part 3. For questions 11–15, you will hear part of a radio phone-in programme about consumer competitions that appear in magazines or are run by shops, in which advice is given to people who

regularly enter them. 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. A	12. D	13. C	14. C	15. B
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Part 4. For questions 16–25, listen to part of a talk about journalism, and complete the following summary. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** taken from the recording for each blank. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

16. paper, printing, electricity, photography	17. paid pamphleteers
18. mass-market newspapers	19. the brutal reality of Vietnam
20. Automatic software programs	21. a deluge of information
22. false, furious, and fractured	23. populist leaders
24. trustworthy, reliable journalism	25. virtual reality and artificial intelligence

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. B	27. C	28. B	29. D	30. A
31. B	32. D	33. A	34. C	35. A

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.

In an era defined by boundless access and _____ (36. **CONNECT**), one might assume that the proliferation of choices equates to greater freedom and satisfaction. Paradoxically, the surfeit of options—once a symbol of affluence and autonomy—now often precipitates anxiety, paralysis, and discontent. Psychologists have coined this phenomenon the "paradox of choice," contending that while a certain degree of variety is liberating, an overabundance can be deeply _____ (37. **PRODUCE**).

Your answers:

36.

hyper-connectivity/interc

onnectedness

Modern consumers, inundated by a deluge of alternatives, frequently find themselves ensnared in a cycle of incessant comparison. From selecting a health insurance plan to choosing a toothpaste brand, each decision is fraught with the fear of _____ (38. OPTIMIZE) choice. The resultant cognitive overload not only hampers decisiveness but can also engender chronic dissatisfaction, as individuals ruminate over the imagined superiority of the options they eschewed.

This tendency is exacerbated by the performative nature of contemporary life, wherein individuals feel compelled to curate every decision—be it mundane or momentous—as part of a personal brand. Social media platforms, rife with curated perfection, amplify the stakes of choice-making, insinuating that every selection is a _____ (39. REFER) on one's taste, intelligence, or success.

Yet, amidst this cacophony of alternatives, a _____ (40. CURRENT) is emerging. Some advocate for "voluntary simplicity," an ethos that valorizes intentionality over abundance. By embracing fewer, more meaningful choices, adherents claim to reclaim a sense of agency and inner peace long obfuscated by excess.

Ultimately, the question arises: is it the quantity of choices that liberates us—or the wisdom to discern which ones truly matter.

37. counterproductive

38. suboptimal

39. referendum

40. countercurrent

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.

As many, the jury's still up on whether mobile phones can be dangerous to human health. For others, the safety hazards of radiation emanating from mobile phones is clear: a wide array of health problems, including cancer.

There are now billions of mobile phone users in the world. The mobile phone industry insists its products pose absolutely no threat to consumers. However, those researchers who speak out against this wisdom say there's virtually no doubt mobile phones can contribute to the development of conditions like depression, diabetes, cancer, heart irregularities and impair fertility. You don't know who to believe but want to err on the side of caution? Then, follow the advice experts give will minimise your exposure to electromagnetic radiation.

Just switch your mobile off whenever you can. As long as it's on, its radiation is

Your answers:
E.g. As -> For

41. up -> out

42. is -> are

43. impair -> impaired

44. follow -> following

45. intermittent ->

emitting, somewhat intermittent.

intermittently

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.

46. evolved	47. to	48. no	49. for	50. extent
51. avoided	52. between	53. By	54. through	55. but

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

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. False
- 57. False
- 58. True
- 59. Not Given
- 60. False
- 61. Not Given
- 62. True

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.

- 63. history of childhood
- 64. miniature adults
- 65. industrialisation
- 66. the Factory Act
- 67. play and education
- 68. (the) classroom

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.

69. B	70. E	71. H	72. A	73. F	74. C	75. G
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Part 4. For questions 76–85, read a passage on the Decameron 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.

76. C	77. B	78. A	79. D	80. C
81. B	82. A	83. B	84. B	85. D

Part 5. The passage below consists of seven 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.

In which sections are the following mentioned?

- | | |
|--|-------|
| • the settlers failed to embrace the American value of industriousness? | 86. C |
| • the settlers' intention to recreate British customs and culture in a foreign land? | 87. A |
| • class exclusivity was deliberately engineered into one specific settlement? | 88. D |
| • some colonists remained economically dependent on family support? | 89. D |
| • a cultural clash in which a settler's expectations were clearly violated? | 90. B |
| • the settlers' increasing wealth triggered political backlash? | 91. E |
| • America offered a practical solution to a British social dilemma? | 92. C |
| • a report that offered a naively optimistic portrayal of colonial life? | 93. C |
| • the settlers' romantic notions were shattered by harsh realities? | 94. D |
| • the contemptuous attitude that many British newcomers had towards locals? | 95. B |

Your answers:

Springboard
English

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.

Suggested Outline & Information Grouping

1. Introduction to Calhoun's Experiment (≈25–30 words)

- Describe the rat study: confined environment, collapse of social order, coined “behavioural sink.”
- Mention how the findings gained popularity as a metaphor for human society.

2. Public Reaction and Popular Theories (≈20–25 words)

- Public figures and writers linked overcrowding with societal decline.
- Crowding was blamed for aggression and instability in humans.

3. Critique of the Human Parallel (≈25–30 words)

- No direct link between population density and violence in human societies.
- U.S. as an example: high homicide rate despite low density.

4. Primate Studies and Alternative Explanation (≈30–35 words)

- Studies on monkeys and chimpanzees found no harmful effects of crowding.
- Primates often adapted by becoming more sociable.
- Suggests that conflict stems from uneven resource distribution, not density.

Part 2. The chart and table below show [Overview of the chart/table information]. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant. You should write about 150 words.

Suggested Outline & Information Grouping

1. Overview:

The bar chart illustrates the number of Japanese tourists who travelled overseas between 1985 and 1995, while the line graph presents the percentage of these tourists who visited Australia during the same period.

2. Overall Trends (1 paragraph)

- General rise in the number of Japanese tourists.

- Australia's share also increased overall, with some fluctuations.
- Positive correlation between total outbound tourism and Australia's popularity.

3. Key Features and Comparisons (1-2 paragraphs)

- Japanese tourists abroad:
 - Steady growth from around 5 million in 1985 to over 15 million by 1995.
 - Most significant rises between 1986–1990 and 1993–1995.
- Australia's market share:
 - Started at ~2% in 1985, peaked at 6.5% in 1994.
 - Fluctuations in 1989 (dip after sharp rise) and slight decline in 1995.
- Comparative insight:
 - The percentage increase in tourists visiting Australia was not perfectly linear.
 - Growth in overall travel did not always translate to proportional growth for Australia.

Part 3. Write an essay of about 350 words on the following topic.

Suggested Outline

1. Introduction (≈60–70 words)

Purpose: Introduce the issue, give background, and state a clear thesis.

- Define cancel culture briefly.
- Mention its growing impact on public discourse and social media.
- Acknowledge both perspectives: justice vs. censorship.
- Thesis statement: State your position clearly. For example:
While cancel culture can serve as a tool for accountability, its growing tendency to suppress dialogue and ignore redemption renders it a significant threat to free expression.

2. Body Paragraphs (≈220–250 words total)

Body Paragraph 1: The Argument for Cancel Culture (≈100–120 words)

Focus: Present why some see it as social justice.

- Used to challenge systemic inequalities or expose racism, misogyny, etc.
- Gives marginalized voices a platform to hold the powerful accountable.

- Examples: MeToo movement exposing abuse, demand for ethical responsibility.
- Short-term consequences (e.g., job loss, public apology) often seen as proportionate.

Body Paragraph 2: The Case Against Cancel Culture (≈120–130 words)

Focus: Argue that it suppresses free speech and growth.

- Lacks due process: people punished without full context or investigation.
- Free speech chilled by fear of being “called out” for honest mistakes or past views.
- Ignores personal growth and change; reinforces mob mentality.
- Example: Public figures “canceled” for decades-old tweets or youthful errors.
- May create echo chambers, reducing space for meaningful dialogue.

3. Conclusion (≈40–50 words)

Purpose: Restate position, offer nuanced reflection.

- Reaffirm that while accountability is necessary, cancel culture’s extremes can undermine democratic discourse.
- True justice must allow for learning, apology, and redemption.
- Encourage a shift from “cancelling” to “constructive accountability.”

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

- GOOD LUCK, AND DO NOT CRY -

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

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 **19** 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.

1. True	2. False	3. True	4. False	5. Not given
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Part 2. Write NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS taken from the recording talking about color perception for each answer in the spaces provided.

- open-pen fish farming
- global hunger and malnutrition
- sea lice
- breed with wild stocks
- overexploited oceans

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. A	12. D	13. C	14. B	15. A
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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.

16. Incantations and rituals	17. Recitation, thought, plot, struggle
18. djinn	19. Catholic mass
20. Habit or a superstition	21. Magical arts
22. pre-Latin origins	23. Malaria treatment
24. resonate with the audience	25. Source of authority

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. B	27. C	28. D	29. A	30. B
31. D	32. A	33. C	34. D	35. A

Springboard
English

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. PATRIMONY

Education was once the _____ of the elite (INTERROGATE)

37. PREROGATIVE

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

38. INVIGILATED

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

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

39. OVERDISPLAY/
MISDISPLAY

40. EXCOMMUNICATION

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. Export > exports

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. Seeing > see

43. Hungry > hungrier

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*.

44. Opposed >

compared/ as opposed

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.

45. Idealistic > ideal

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.

46. lengths	47. motor	48. unremarked	49. race	50. tribute
51. predecessor	52. industry	53. thrill	54. cockpit	55. turns

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

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. True
- 57. True
- 58. True
- 59. Not given
- 60. False
- 61. True
- 62. Not given

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.

- 63. net effect
- 64. routine tasks
- 65. fewer immediate disruptions
- 66. productivity and wages
- 67. higher-income workers
- 68. social safety net

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.

69. D	70. A	71. G	72. H	73. E	74. F	75. C
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Part 4. For questions 76-85, read a passage on plastic problems across countries 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.

76. D	77. C	78. A	79. C	80. B
81. B	82. C	83. B	84. C	85. D

Part 5. The passage below consists of seven 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.

86. A	87. C	88. E	89. E	90. C
91. D	92. B	93. A	94. B	95. D

IV. WRITING (6.0 points)

Part 1. (2.0 points)

Contents (1.5 points)

The summary should:

- introduce the topic of both texts,
- present the main ideas of both texts.

Language use (0.5 points)

The summary should:

- demonstrate a wide variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures,
- have correct use of words and mechanics,
- maintain coherence, cohesion and unity throughout.

Part 2. (3.0 points)

Task response (1.0 point)

The essay should:

- sufficiently address all requirements of the task,
- develop relevant supporting ideas with explanations, examples, evidence, etc.

Organisation (1.0 point)

The essay should have:

- *an introduction* presenting a clear thesis statement introducing the points to be developed,
- *body paragraphs* developing the points mentioned in the introduction,
- *a conclusion* summarising the main points discussed in the essay.

Language use (1.0 point)

The essay should:

- demonstrate a wide variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures,
- have correct use of words and mechanics,
- maintain coherence, cohesion and unity throughout.

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

- GOOD LUCK, AND DO NOT CRY -

Springboard
English

LIÊN HỆ SPRINGBOARD - LỚP HỌC NHÀ XUÂN

Các tập 3, tập 4 và tập 5 của **bộ sách Đề thi luyện tập chọn đội tuyển Học Sinh Giỏi Quốc gia, chọn Học Sinh Giỏi Quốc Gia tiếng Anh 2024-2025** sẽ được tiếp tục phát hành. Vui lòng theo dõi kênh thông tin Springboard để nhận thông tin các đợt phát hành tiếp theo.

Quý thầy cô giáo, phụ huynh và các em học sinh có thể liên hệ Springboard qua

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SĐT/Zalo	094.858.9966

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