

(Thí sinh làm bài ra tờ giấy thi)

HƯỚNG DẪN PHẦN THI NGHE HIỂU

- Bài nghe gồm 4 phần, mỗi phần được nghe 2 lần, mỗi lần cách nhau 20 giây, mở đầu và kết thúc mỗi phần nghe có tín hiệu.
- Mở đầu và kết thúc bài nghe có tín hiệu nhạc. Thí sinh có 2 phút để hoàn chỉnh bài trước tín hiệu nhạc kết thúc bài nghe.
- Mọi hướng dẫn cho thí sinh (bằng tiếng Anh) đã có trong bài nghe.

I. LISTENING (50 points)

Part 1. For questions 1-5, listen to two people, Georgina and Jack, talking about a business Amelia runs and decide whether the following are mentioned by only one of the speakers, or by both of them. In the answer sheet, write:

J for Jack

G for Georgina

B for Both of the speakers

- A shift in business focus is essential for improved economic rewards.
- The business owner's opinion on local competition is justifiable.
- Updating some aspects of the premise is worth consideration.
- Advice is best sought from experienced business people.
- Some irregularity in turnover is to be expected.

Part 2. For questions 6-10, listen to a talk about the best recent phone trends and match each number (6-10) in Column I with one letter (A-K) in Column II to make a correct statement according to what is stated or implied by the speaker(s). Write your answers in the answer sheet.

Column I	Column II
6. Foldables	A. have been consistently diverse in style since their first launch.
7. Notch Fight Phones	B. become more available with higher quality.
8. Wireless Charging Phones	C. witness a shortcoming being rectified properly.
9. Low-light Phones	D. are more fad than forever devices.
10. Cheaper Phones	E. are a worthy successor to previous models in terms of camera quality.
	F. should include sophisticated applications particularly suited for advanced uses.
	G. need improvements in both charging speed and compatibility with other devices.
	H. are supported by serious apps designed for average users.
	I. include cameras attached to phones.
	J. were initially monotonous in design.
	K. are of higher quality than flagship phones.

Part 3. For questions 11-15, you will hear a group of art history students talking about what they see in an art gallery. Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear. Write your answers in the answer sheet.

11. Burne-Jones believed that a painting _____.
 A. ought to be true to nature
 B. must have a clear moral point
 C. should play an instructive role
 D. need not have any practical value
12. It appears that the story of the King and the Beggar Maid was _____.
 A. a well-known Victorian tale
 B. taken up by novelists at a later stage
 C. popularized by a poet
 D. brought to the artist's attention by his wife
13. According to the student, how did the painter approach the work?
 A. He wanted to portray the beggar very realistically.
 B. He copied parts of the painting from an Italian masterpiece.
 C. He had certain items in the painting made for him.
 D. He wanted to decorate the clothing with jewels.
14. The student thinks that in some way the painting depicts _____.
 A. an uncharacteristically personal message
 B. the great sadness of the artist
 C. the artist's inability to return the girl's love
 D. the fulfilment of the artist's hopes and dreams
15. What was people's reaction to the painting?
 A. They recognized Frances Graham as the model for the Beggar Maid.
 B. They realized how personal the painting was for the artist.
 C. They interpreted the painting without difficulty.
 D. They did not approve of the subject matter of the painting.

Part 4. For questions 16-25, listen to a talk about advances in battery technology and fill in the blanks with the missing information. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS taken from the recording for each answer. Write your answers in the answer sheet.

Solid-state batteries represent a promising innovation with potential for more power, improved safety, faster charging, and longer lifespan. Unlike traditional batteries, they can even be designed in (16) _____. The basic principle of a battery involves converting chemical energy into electricity, with a positive end called the cathode, specifically (17) _____ and a negative end called the anode, by which (18) _____ are released with the presence of potato, then a chemical reaction occurs.

Most current batteries use (19) _____, which are efficient but pose safety risks as they are (20) _____, especially at high temperatures. Solid-state batteries address this issue by using a strong, (21) _____, like ceramics, glasses, and polymers, which enhance safety. In terms of the anode, traditional (22) _____ use graphite, but researchers see lithium metal as a better alternative due to its higher capacity. However, this material often forms the (23) _____ or little microscopic structures, which can short-circuit the battery.

Traditional batteries are produced through the process namely (24) _____, but innovative companies like Sakuu aim to improve performance by 3D printing, bettering the (25) _____ through more compact battery designs. These advancements are driven by the goal of creating batteries that are safer, superior and sustainable.

II. READING (100 points)

II.1. LANGUAGE IN USE (35 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 your answers in the answer sheet.

In the movies, as in the city, the sense of stable hierarchy has become increasingly exhausted; we no longer live in a world where we can all share the same values, and the same heroes. It is doubtful whether

this world, so beloved of (26) _____ moralists, ever existed; but lip-service was paid to it, the pretence, at last, was kept up. The isolate and the (27) _____ push towards the centre of the stage; their fashions and mannerisms are presented as having (28) _____ to the limelight and the future as those of anyone else. In the crowd on the underground platform, one may observe a honeycomb of (29) _____ worlds, each private, exclusive, bearing little comparison with its nearest neighbor. What is prized in one is (30) _____ in another. There are no clear rules about how one is supposed to manage one's body, dress, talk, or think. Though there are elaborate protocols and etiquettes among particular cults and groups within the city, they (31) _____ no common standard.

For the new arrival, this disordered abundance is the city's most evident and alarming quality. He feels as if he (32) _____ into a funfair of contradictory imperatives. There are so many people he might become, and a suit of clothes, a make of car, and a brand of cigarettes, will go some way towards turning him into a/an (33) _____ before he has discovered who it is. Personal identity has always been deeply rooted in property, (34) _____ the relationship has been a simple one – a question of buying what you could afford, and leaving your wealth to announce your status. In the modern city, there are so many things to buy, such a quantity of different kinds of status, (35) _____ and its attendant anxieties have created a new pornography of state.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 26. A. nostalgia | B. futuristic | C. idealistic | D. nobility |
| 27. A. disparate | B. flamboyant | C. eccentric | D. insatiable |
| 28. A. as a good claim | B. as good a claim | C. such a good claim | D. so a good claim |
| 29. A. thoroughly-drawn-up | B. clearly-mapped-out | C. carefully-lined-up | D. fully-worked-out |
| 30. A. disparaged | B. despised | C. disguised | D. denounced |
| 31. A. bristle with | B. apply to | C. grapple with | D. subscribe to |
| 32. A. had parachuted | B. must have parachuted | C. has parachuted | D. were parachuting |
| 33. A. dignitary | B. personage | C. nonentity | D. identity |
| 34. A. henceforth | B. but hitherto | C. yet formerly | D. from hereafter |
| 35. A. such a choice | B. hence, the choice | C. it is the choice | D. that the choice |

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. There are FOUR words that you do not need to use. The first one, (0), has been done as an example.

BORE	ONUS	WHITE	PROBABLE	FATIGUE
ACCESS	AWARE	ENTER	ABLE	FAMILIAR

There is no other race quite like it; no other race in a place so (0) *inaccessible*; no other race which puts the body through a test of (36) _____ of such extremes. The Antarctic Ice Marathon was the brainchild of Richard Donovan, whose company, Polar Running Adventures, gives runners the opportunity to partake in a race through the barren wasteland that is the snow-covered Union Glacier. Last year, there were some 34 participants in the race, and this time, the number of (37) _____ is expected to be higher still; such has been the level of interest shown by members of the public, amateur and professional athletes and the media alike. But, while the prospect of being part of as unique an experience as the Antarctic Ice Marathon is, seemingly, on the face of it, a rather agreeable notion, those considering putting their names in the mix would do well to be mindful of just how intense and (38) _____, both physically and psychologically, the event can be. You will be cut off completely from civilization, with not even a penguin there to cheer you on, and you may have to face temperatures dipping considerably lower than the levels your body would acclimatize itself to dealing with, not to mention the (39) _____ of fine weather - think instead near (40) _____ conditions and zero visibility. But, if you still fancy giving it a go, get in touch with Richard and he can make your dream (or nightmare) come true.

Part 3. The passage below contains FIVE grammatical mistakes. For questions 41-45, underline mistakes and write the correction in the answer sheet. The first one has been done as an example.

Line	Passage
1	Pickleball, a rapidly growing paddle sport, <u>combine</u> => combines aspects of tennis,
2	badminton, and ping-pong, and mastering their technique involves more than just physical
3	strength. Players must adopt a copybook approach to grip, footwork, and shot execution. A
4	proper stance and controlling paddle swing can determine the success of each shot. While
5	these details may seem inappreciable to beginners, they play a critical role in long-term
6	improvement. Consistency in dinks, volleys, and serves is built through repetition and
7	attention to small nuance. Celebrants of the sport - those who play regularly and passionately
8	- understand that success comes from precision, not power alone.
9	However, not all matches go according to plan, and players must sometimes improvise.
10	When a traditional technique fails or the opponent catches up, a smart workaround - such as
11	switching to an unexpected lob or a disguised drop shot - can regain control. Training
12	feelingly, or with intention and awareness, helps develop muscle memory and intuition,
13	allows players to adjust their strategies mid-game. It's these subtle adjustments that elevate
14	an average game into a competitive match.

II.2. READING COMPREHENSION (65 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 answer sheet.

Despite the fact that research has not found a direct link between the use of computer-based instructional software and student achievement, schools have been eager to jump on the educational technology (46) _____. Attention has been given to the amount and quality of equipment, while ignoring the important (47) _____ of whether the use of educational technology actually helps pupils to learn any better. An essential (48) _____ for the successful use of computers in classrooms is effective in-service training, which includes technology skills training, for all staff. Teachers with limited technology skills avoid exploring computer programs they have not been taught, even when those programs could benefit their students. Curriculum-specific (49) _____ is user-friendly and flexible for students. However, the role of students remains passive, as it doesn't allow for active participation, (50) _____ teachers and students together become co-learners and creators of new knowledge. Another potential drawback (51) _____ schools which have introduced computer technology is student assessment, as it is impossible to give each student (52) _____ individual attention all the time. Student performance data need to be accessed by teachers and administrators in real time from their desktops, allowing them to (53) _____ student progress towards curriculum goals on a day-to-day basis. (54) _____ sufficient hi-tech staff training and a revision of the approach to the use of technology resources, any (55) _____ to link student achievement and the use of educational technology is futile.

Part 2. For questions 56-69, read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

In response to the emergence of the 'metro-sexual' male, in other words, an urban, sophisticated man who is fashionable, well-groomed and unashamedly committed to ensuring his appearance is the best it can be, a whole new industry has developed. According to research conducted on behalf of a leading health and beauty retailer in the UK, the market for male cosmetics and related products has grown by 800% since the year 2000 and is expected to continue to increase significantly. The male grooming products market has become the fastest growing sector within the beauty and cosmetics industry, currently equivalent to around 1.5 billion pounds per annum.

Over the last decade, a large number of brands and companies catering for enhancement of the male image have been successfully established, such operations ranging from male-only spas, boutiques, personal hygiene products, hair and skin care ranges, and male magazines with a strong leaning towards

men's fashion. Jamie Cawley, proprietor of a successful chain of London-based male grooming boutiques, holds that his company's success in this highly competitive market can be attributed to the 'exclusivity' tactics they have employed, in that their products and services are clearly defined as male-orientated and distinctly separate to feminine products offered by other organizations. However, market analyst, Kim Sawyer, believes that future growth in the market can also be achieved through the sale of unisex products marketed to both genders, as this strategy is becoming increasingly easy to implement as men's interest in appearance and grooming has become more of a social norm.

Traditionalists such as journalist Jim Howard contend that the turn-around in male attitudes which has led to the success of the industry would have been inconceivable a decade ago, given the conventional male role, psyche and obligation to exude masculinity; however, behavioural scientist Professor Ruth Chesterton argues that the metro-sexual man of today is in fact a modern incarnation of the 'dandy' of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. British dandies of that period, who were often of middle-class backgrounds but imitated aristocratic lifestyles, were devoted to the cultivation of their physical appearance, the development of a refined demeanour, and hedonistic pursuits. In France, she adds, dandyism, in contrast, was also strongly linked to political ideology and embraced by youths wishing to clearly define themselves from members of the working-class revolutionary social groups of the period.

Over recent decades, according to sociologist Ben Cameron, gender roles for both sexes have become less defined. According to research, he says, achievement of status and success have become less important in younger generations of men, as has the need to repress emotions. Cameron defines the traditional masculine role within western societies – hegemonic masculinity – as an expectation that males demonstrate physical strength and fitness, be decisive, self-assured, rational, successful and in control. Meeting this list of criteria and avoiding situations of demonstrating weakness, being overly emotional or in any way 'inferior', he says, has placed a great deal of pressure on many members of the male population. So restrictive can society's pressure to behave in a 'masculine' fashion on males be, Professor Chesterton states that in many situations men may respond in a way they deem acceptable to society, given their perceived gender role, rather than giving what they may actually consider to be the best and most objective response.

Jim Howard says that learning and acquiring gender identity makes up a huge component of a child's socialization and that a child who exhibits non-standard behavioural characteristics often encounters social and self-image difficulties due to the adverse reactions of their peers. According to Kim Sawyer, media images and messages also add to pressures associated with the male image, stating that even in these modern and changing times, hegemonic masculinity is often idolised and portrayed as the definitive male persona.

Whilst male stereotypes and ideals vary from culture to culture, according to Professor Chesterton, a universal trait in stereotypical male behaviour is an increased likelihood to take risks than is generally found in female behaviour patterns. For this reason, she attributes such behaviour to the influence of genetic predisposition as opposed to socially learned behaviour. Men, she says, are three times more likely to die due to an accident than females, a strong indication he says of their greater willingness to involve themselves in precarious situations. Ben Cameron also says that an attitude of invincibility is more dominant in males and is a predominant factor in the trend for fewer medical checkups in males and late diagnosis of chronic and terminal illness than in their more cautious and vigilant female counterparts.

Jamie Cawley, however, remains optimistic that the metro-sexual culture will continue and that what society accepts as the face of masculinity will continue to change. He attributes this to a male revolt against the strict confines of gender roles, adding that such changes of attitudes have led and will continue to lead to the establishment of greater equality between the sexes.

For questions 56-61, decide whether each of the following statements is True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG). Write T, F, or NG in the answer sheet.

- 56. The research included interviews with metro-sexual men from different age groups.
- 57. Sales in the female health and beauty market have slightly declined over recent years.
- 58. The rise of 'dandyism' in England and France is attributed to similar factors.

59. Emotional reaction is contradictory to hegemonic masculine behaviour.
60. There is a correlation between men's belief that they are indestructible and their decreased likelihood to seek medical advice.

61. Jamie Cawley believes that society will return to traditional definitions of masculinity.

For questions 62 – 69, read the summary and fill each space with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS taken from the passage. Write your answers in the answer sheet.

The emergence of the (62) _____, an urban and sophisticated man committed to his appearance, has led to the development of a (63) _____. Since 2000, the market for male (64) _____ has grown by 800%, now worth around 1.5 billion pounds annually. Over the last decade, numerous brands have launched (65) _____ spas, boutiques, hygiene products, and fashion magazines. Jamie Cawley credits his success to 'exclusivity' tactics, focusing on male-only products distinct from feminine ones. (66) _____ Kim Sawyer predicts growth through (67) _____ products, as men's grooming becomes a social norm. Traditionalists saw this change as unlikely given the conventional male role, but Professor Chesterton compares today's metrosexual man to the 'dandy' of the late eighteenth century, devoted to appearance and refinement. Sociologist Ben Cameron notes (68) _____ are less defined, with younger men less concerned about status and less likely to repress emotions, though societal pressures to be (69) _____ remain strong.

Part 3. In the passage below, six paragraphs have been removed. For questions 70-75, read the passage and choose from paragraphs A-G the one which fits each gap. There is ONE extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Write the letters A-G in the answer sheet.

MERGING ART&SCIENCE: A FALSE PREMISE

The current vogue is for believing that art and science should be brought together. This obsession for showing that art - particularly the visual arts - is similar to science in content and the creative processes is bemusing. I detect in it an element of social snobbery - artists are envious of scientists and scientists want to be thought of as artists.

70.

If Watson and Crick had not got the structure of DNA we know that Franklin and Klug would soon have had it. Indeed, simultaneous discovery is a common feature of science. If one could rerun the history of science and start again it would have a different history but the end results would be the same: water would be H₂O and genes would code for proteins but the names would be different.

71.

Whatever the feelings of the scientist these are absent from the final understanding of a process while art is a personal creation and contains the personal views of the artist. And since science is a communal process a scientist has to be very aware of what is known about the problem being investigated. There are strict criteria about lack of contradiction and, of course, correspondence with reality. Science makes progress, we build on the work of our current and earlier colleagues. To talk about progress in art makes no sense, there is change but not progress.

72.

Thus, I cannot understand what is being referred to when there is reference to critical thinking in art. In what sense can a painting be right or wrong? Anyone can have views about a painting and engage in art discussions. Non-scientists can thrill to scientific ideas but to make meaningful comments about them, and I exclude their application to technology, one actually has to have detailed knowledge; science needs a much greater, and quite different, intellectual effort.

73.

It is very rare for referees to recommend acceptance without changes. This can be a complex procedure but in general authors are grateful for the careful reading and criticism of their paper. Even so we reject about half of all papers we receive. Paintings, however, are neither revised nor can be shown to be wrong.

74.

The idea of creativity makes scientists want to be thought of as artists and vice versa and there may well be something similar in all human creativity, but that it is particularly similar in scientists and artists is without foundation. The similarity between art and science is even less than that between billiards and rugby, both of which at least use a ball.

75.

It seems just poetic license to suggest that this picture did much to convince European scientists that the great mystery of life might be explained in terms of electrochemical forces. (Although it may be that Jan Vermeer did indeed discover that more compelling illusions can be achieved through a kind of optical illusion that makes special use of the perceptual system inside our brains, rather than through the details that reach our eyes).

The missing paragraphs:

- A. What are the criteria used by the director of a gallery and his or her advisers when selecting for exhibition? Is he or she like the editor of a science journal? No, for there is nothing in art like the peer review so fundamental to science; there are no art critics, just art writers. As the editor of a scientific journal, it is extremely rare that my personal view determines whether or not a paper gets published. My role is to choose a good editorial board and to know to whom the papers to be reviewed should be sent.
- B. Then of the hundreds of thousands of papers published each year, few have a lifetime of more than a few years. Most disappear with little if any trace. The original papers, with very rare exceptions, like those of Einstein, are never part of scientific culture and they are not for sale. Science, unlike art, is not entertainment.
- C. What intrigued me at the opening was how the exhibits were chosen. There is less of a problem with well established artists such as Lucian Freud, Francis Bacon or Matisse. It is the very modern works that present the problem.
- D. How different from this are all the arts. No Shakespeare - no Hamlet; no Picasso - no Guernica. Moreover, a work of art is capable of many interpretations and has moral content. There is but one correct scientific explanation for any set of observations and reliable scientific understanding has no moral or ethical content; that is to say that the scientist does not allow his own reactions to come into play.
- E. The Oxford University art historian Martin Kemp takes a very different view from mine here. He claims that during the 'Scientific Revolution' some artists were able to play an active role in the dialogue between seeing and knowing. He gives the fiery emissions of Joseph Wright's volcanoes painted in the late eighteenth century as an example. Wright's painting of Vesuvius erupting may be dramatic but it owes nothing to geology.
- F. Art is not constrained by reality. It cannot be shown to be wrong. And of all the arts, painting is the one least related to science as it does not deal with complex ideas or explanations, is the easiest to appreciate, and the response is often an emotional one. Ideas in the visual arts come from art critics and historians, not the works themselves.
- G. Science is about understanding how the world works, there being only one right description of any observed phenomenon. Unlike the arts it is a collective endeavor in which the individual is ultimately irrelevant - geniuses merely speed up discovery.

Part 4. For questions 76 - 85, read the following 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.

No man likes to acknowledge that he has made a mistake in the choice of his profession, and every man, worthy of the name, will row long against wind and tide before he allows himself to cry out, "I am baffled!" and submits to be floated passively back to land. From the first week of my residence in X - I felt my occupation irksome. The thing itself - the work of copying and translating business-letters - was a dry

and tedious task enough, but had that been all, I should long have borne with the nuisance; I am not of an impatient nature, and influenced by the double desire of getting my living and justifying to myself and others the resolution I had taken to become a tradesman, I should have endured in silence the rust and cramp of my best faculties; I should not have whispered, even inwardly, that I longed for liberty; I should have pent in every sigh by which my heart might have ventured to intimate its distress under the closeness, smoke, monotony, and joyless tumult of Bigben Close, and its panting desire for freer and fresher scenes; I should have set up **the image of Duty, the fetish of Perseverance**, in my small bedroom at Mrs. King's lodgings, and they two should have been my household gods, from which my darling, my cherished-in-secret, Imagination, the tender and the mighty, should never, either by softness or strength, have severed me. But this was not all; the antipathy which had sprung up between myself and my employer striking deeper root and spreading denser **shade** daily, excluded me from every glimpse of the sunshine of life; and I began to feel like a plant growing in humid **darkness** out of the slimy walls of a well.

Antipathy is the only word which can express the feeling Edward Crimsworth had for me - **a feeling, in a great measure, involuntary, and which was liable to be excited by every, the most trifling movement, look, or word of mine.** My southern accent annoyed him; the degree of education evinced in my language irritated him; my punctuality, industry, and accuracy, fixed his dislike, and gave it the high **flavour** and poignant relish of envy; he feared that I too should one day make a successful tradesman. Had I been in anything inferior to him, he would not have hated me so thoroughly, but I knew all that he knew, and, what was worse, he suspected that I kept the padlock of silence on mental wealth in which he was no sharer. If he could have once placed me in a ridiculous or mortifying position, he would have forgiven me much, but I was guarded by three faculties - Caution, Tact, Observation; and prowling and prying as was Edward's malignity, it could never baffle the lynx-eyes of these, my natural sentinels. Day by day did his malice watch my tact, hoping it would sleep, and prepared to steal snake-like on its slumber; but tact, if it be genuine, never sleeps.

I had received my first quarter's wages, and was returning to my lodgings, possessed heart and soul with the pleasant feeling that the master who had paid me grudged every penny of that hard-earned pittance - (I had long ceased to regard Mr. Crimsworth as my brother - he was a hard, grinding master; he wished to be an inexorable tyrant: that was all). Thoughts, not varied but strong, occupied my mind; two voices spoke within me; again and again they uttered the same monotonous phrases. One said: "William, your life is intolerable." The other: "What can you do to alter it?" I walked fast, for it was a cold, frosty night in January; as I approached my lodgings, I turned from a general view of my affairs to the particular speculation as to whether my fire would be out; looking towards the window of my sitting-room, I saw no cheering red gleam.

76. The main purpose of the opening sentence of the passage is to _____.
A. establish the narrator's perspective on a controversy
B. provide context useful in understanding the narrator's emotional state
C. offer a symbolic representation of Edward Crimsworth's plight
D. contrast the narrator's good intentions with his malicious conduct
77. During the course of the first paragraph, the narrator's focus shifts from _____.
A. recollection of past confidence to acknowledgment of present self-doubt
B. reflection on his expectations of life as a tradesman to his desire for another job
C. generalization about job dissatisfaction to the specifics of his own situation
D. evaluation of factors making him unhappy to identification of alternatives
78. What is the primary purpose of the author mentioning "**the image of Duty**" and "**the fetish of Perseverance**" in the passage?
A. To emphasize the narrator's enjoyment of his work and commitment to his career.
B. To illustrate how these ideals help the narrator cope with the monotony of his job.
C. To suggest that perseverance leads to ultimate success and satisfaction.
D. To convey the narrator's indifference toward his personal aspirations.
79. The references to "**shade**" and "**darkness**" at the end of the first paragraph mainly have which effect?

- A. They evoke the narrator's sense of dismay.
B. They highlight the narrator's internal conflict.
C. They reflect the narrator's emotional isolation.
D. They signify the narrator's confrontation with despair.
80. The passage indicates that when the narrator began working for Edward Crimsworth, he viewed Crimsworth as a _____.
A. harmless rival B. sympathetic ally C. perceptive judge D. demanding mentor
81. The passage indicates that, after a long day of work, the narrator sometimes found his living quarters to be _____.
A. dreary B. intolerable C. predictable D. treacherous
82. What does "a feeling, in a great measure, involuntary, and which was liable to be excited by every, the most trifling movement, look, or word of mine" imply?
A. Crimsworth's aversion towards the speaker was largely automatic and not entirely under his control.
B. Crimsworth harbored a profound hatred for the speaker, and his feelings were stronger and more intense than mere antipathy.
C. Crimsworth's feelings were erratic and unstable, influenced by an assortment of stimuli.
D. Crimsworth's feelings were more about his internal struggles rather than a direct antipathy towards the speaker.
83. Which is similar to the word 'flavour' in paragraph 2?
A. shade B. tone C. intensity D. spice
84. At the end of the second paragraph, the comparisons of abstract qualities to a lynx and a snake mainly have the effect of _____.
A. contrasting two hypothetical courses of action B. conveying the ferocity of a resolution
C. suggesting the likelihood of an altercation D. illustrating the nature of an adversarial relationship
85. Which choice best summarizes the passage?
A. A character describes his dislike for his new job and considers the reasons why.
B. Two characters employed in the same office become increasingly competitive.
C. A young man regrets privately a choice that he defends publicly.
D. A new employee experiences resistance, then frustration, and finally despair.

Part 5. For questions 86-95, choose from the sections of the article (A-F). The sections may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

THE NEVER-ENDING QUEST FOR THE PERFECT CITY

Logistics have preoccupied town planners since ancient times, alongside how best to create a sense of community. Here are some of the ideas they've town with ...

A. Renaissance ideals

After poring 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 salt was devising his own version. Many were notional utopias that would stay on the page or as models: maverick architect Filarete named his pioneering, star-shaped prototype Sforzinda after his patron; Da Vinci's imagined version was inevitably ahead of its time, featuring an underground sewage system, fresh air vents and pedestrian areas.

A flurry of Ideal Cities sprung up soon afterwards, among them cosmopolitan Zamość in Poland (another World Heritage Site). Then there's Palmanova, 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.

Though it's UNESCO-protected today and the inspiration for myriad YouTube drone videos, Palmanova proved a hard sell when it was built. A hastily implemented strategy created by the Republic offered land at knock-down prices (often to prematurely pardoned criminals).

B. Green and pleasant lands

At the turn of the 20th century, one English urban planner was looking for ways to escape the city altogether. Ebenezer Howard's solution was the genteel Garden City. When Letchworth and Welwyn Garden City were built, they intentionally untangled factories from shops and houses with careful zoning. As well as hankering after sensible town planning and leafy environs, Howard had altruistic aims for affordable housing. Though he borrowed money to make it all a reality, his garden cities were soon beyond the means of most working-class families.

Howard was a huge inspiration for Walt Disney and his dreams to build EPCOT (Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow). Although destined to become a theme park after Disney's death in 1966, EPCOT was imagined as a community that could 'influence the future of city living for generations to come. In concept drawings, monorails and pedestrian walkways provide traffic-free links to shopping streets and schools. The whole thing was set under a climate-controlled dome ensuring no resident ever felt too hot or cold or got rained on.

C. Mid-century cities

Brasília is another mid-century concept city, built in the 1950s to look like an aeroplane and designed to be easily navigable by car. Though its Oscar Niemeyer-designed buildings are works of art, only architecture junkies would holiday in Brasília, which lacks the life and soul of Rio and some of Brazil's other history-layered cities.

Seven years later, another idealist metropolis sprung up north of London. Milton Keynes was designed as a low-density town peppered with abundant trees that mixed Garden Cities with a grid system to make something totally unique - but it's always had an image problem. In an attempt to set the record straight, a 1980s TV advert sold it as some kind of bucolic alternative to the capital, complete with lakes, a lively marketplace and plenty of room for cyclists. Pioneering schemes such as a traffic-busting autonomous public transport system form part of its MK New City Plan. Whether the city can keep its unique character is in question, however. Under the plan, its population would almost double by 2050 and grassroots organisations are concerned about damaging infill - to squeeze more people into the existing area - and expansion.

D. Cities of the future

In South Korea, Songdo bills itself as 'the world's smartest city' and has lots to admire: a revolutionary recycling system that sucks waste from homes via pressurized shoots ready for sorting; 40 per cent of its land designated as green space. The only thing missing is a social life, a situation exacerbated by the fact that it's so near to Seoul that people tend to commute in for work or out for fun.

Meanwhile, many other cities are retrofitting themselves for future success with a commitment to be carbon zero by 2030. Singapore is aiming to plant one million trees, triple its more than 500 kilometres of cycle paths and build therapeutic gardens to improve mental health. Even car-heavy Dubai wants to introduce great swathes of cycle paths and walking trails. Egypt is building a new city too. The New Administrative Capital aims to be a satellite to Cairo, its traffic-clogged, ancient neighbour, housing government buildings, businesses, homes and even a huge theme park in relative calm. There's even a nod to the great city builder Ramesses II, with lotus flower symbols echoing those of Ancient Egypt.

Which section mentions a city that

86. has a prestigious pedigree but originally struggled to attract residents?
87. aims to provide tranquility while honouring heritage?
88. is mindful of the psychological wellbeing of its citizens?
89. proved economically unviable for many of its intended inhabitants?
90. suffers from its proximity to a more vibrant neighbour?
91. may become less attractive as a result of projected astronomical growth?
92. is claimed to be relatively tedious despite its superior aesthetics?
93. highlighted its vibrant mart and rural features to dispel scepticism?
94. has metamorphosed into a radically different place than originally envisioned?
95. plans to encourage more inhabitants to get about under their own steam?

III. WRITING (50 points)

Part 1. Read the following extract and use your own words to summarize it. Your summary should be between 130 and 150 words long.

Experts view the social smile as a strong indicator of infants' growing curiosity and a higher level of engagement with their surroundings. It follows, therefore, that the social smile, as one of explicit interaction, also indicates a child's growing awareness of himself or herself as a distinct individual and active agent in a social environment. Of crucial importance is what is known as social referencing, in which an infant looks to his or her caregiver before reacting to a situation. Many studies have revealed that around seven months of age, infants begin to become scared of strangers and often show fear or distress when encountering unfamiliar faces. However, a study by the psychologists Feiring, Lewis, and Starr revealed that by fifteen months, babies were cautiously attentive to their mother's response to strangers. In an experiment, the researchers found that if the mother smiled at a stranger, the baby was far more likely to smile.

Technically, some experts solely use the term social smile for smiles that involve only the zygomaticus major muscles, which are responsible for raising the corners of the lips. If smiles are accompanied by open mouths and contraction of the orbicularis oris muscles – movements that make the outer corners of the eyes wrinkle – they are said to be 'emotional' smiles. This view is partly a result of reductionistic attempts to directly connect human emotions with anatomical movements, which have been proved to be incorrect. One example of this was Paul Eckman's Facial Action Coding System (FACS) which attempted to give emotions an objective basis and allow investigators to identify emotional expressions without cultural bias.

According to this method of analysis, the social smile is primarily a false smile. This argument has some merit because the social smile can happen even in the absence of emotion. Infants sometimes merely imitate what they see, and the social smile at times may be nothing more than an attempt to get some form of support from the mother. And it is well known that the social smile continues into adulthood. It is common to use a social smile in numerous social contexts in a way that may be fake. For instance, imagine a grown person receiving a birthday present that is a huge disappointment. Rather than expressing a true emotion via a frown, the person receiving the gift is far more likely to smile.

The difficulty with distinguishing 'social' from 'emotional' smiles, however, is that there is a broad spectrum of facial expressions and emotional states between the two extremes. Certainly, a smile can be both social and emotional at the same time. Viewed this way, social smiles can vary tremendously in the extent of emotion they convey, from simple grins that may show a less intense emotion to fuller smiles involving the whole face that are displays of pure joy.

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

Some people believe that the education curriculum should focus on the well-rounded development of students rather than solely preparing them as human resources for economic growth.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion. Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

===== HẾT =====

Thí sinh không được sử dụng tài liệu. Cán bộ coi thi không giải thích gì thêm.

Họ và tên thí sinh: Số báo danh: