

ĐỀ THI ĐỀ XUẤT

Đề thi gồm có 20 trang

Thời gian làm bài: 180 phút

(Không kể thời gian giao đề)

I. LISTENING (50/200)

Part 1. Complete the notes below by filling in NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS in each gap to complete the notes. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 pts)

Ocean Biodiversity

Biodiversity hotspots

- areas containing many different species
- important for (1) _____ for conservation
- at first only identified on land

Boris Worm, 2005

- identified hotspots for large ocean predators, e.g. sharks
- found that ocean hotspots:
 - did not always have (2) _____ of food.
 - had (3) _____ at the surface
 - had sufficient oxygen (4) _____
- recognised two factors necessary to support the high metabolic rate of these large fish

Lisa I, 2007

- looked for hotspots for (5) _____ like seals
- found these were all located where ocean currents meet

Census of Marine Life

- found large number of ocean species:
 - live under the ice, which stunned other researchers
 - congregate around volcanoes on the ocean floor because of (6) _____

Global Marine Species Assessment

- want to list endangered ocean species, considering:
 - population size
 - (7) _____

– rate of decline

- Aim: to assess 20,000 species and make a (8) _____ for each one

Recommendations to retain ocean biodiversity

- increase the number of ocean reserves
- establish (9) _____ (e.g. for turtles)
- reduce fishing quotas
- catch fish only for the purpose of consumption with (10) _____ used by commercial fishing boats

Your answers:

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

Part 2. Listen to the talk with the new staff who haven't been involved with the volunteering projects and answer the following questions. USE NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer. Write your answer in the spaces provided. (10 pts)

1. How much time for volunteering does the company allow per employee?

.....

2. What did some staff do to help unemployed people last year?

.....

3. What will the company do with a local park this year?

.....

4. Where will the Digital Inclusion Day be held?

.....

5. What should staff do if they want to take part in the Digital Inclusion Day?

.....

Your answers:

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	

Part 3. You will hear a woman talking about her visit to South Africa. Listen and decide whether it is T/ F/ or NOT GIVEN. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 pts)

1. Her husband has some relatives who emigrated a long time ago.
2. Her father had left Johannesburg before he was 10 years old.
3. Their son is very good at sports.
4. In the end they decided not to use the tour organized by a company called Safari Holidays.
5. Their favourite animals at the Safari park were the hippos.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Part 4. You will hear an interview with a designer of clothing. For questions 1-5, choose the answer (A, B, C, or D) which fits best according to what you hear. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 pts)

1. How does the designer explain her interest in the fashion industry?
 - A. Both parents were actively involved in it.
 - B. She was encouraged to pursue her passion.
 - C. She's always been interested in her own clothing.
 - D. Her sewing teacher was very good.
2. The reason the designer changed the focus of her college studies was because
 - A. she became interested in something different.
 - B. she focused on her employment prospects.
 - C. she was a part of a class where a teacher inspired her.
 - D. her initial enthusiasm faded.
3. What does the designer say about her apprenticeship experience?
 - A. it proved quite useful when running a business of her own.
 - B. it was more relevant than whatever she learned at college.
 - C. she believes that such apprenticeships should be made mandatory.
 - D. she feels fortunate about being given such a good placement.
4. What part of her character does Sam say attracted her to designing clothes?
 - A. a desire to be more attractive
 - B. her interest in others

C. social awkwardness

D. her love for colour

5. What would be the summary of the designer's view on fashion?

A. Practicality should come before artistry.

B. You can show different moods using clothing.

C. Fashion should be used to make people look better.

D. Fashion helps bring art into our life.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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II. LEXICO-GRAMMAR: 30/200

Part 1. Choose the best option to complete each of the following sentences. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (15pts)

1. Fitting together the thousands of fragments of the broken vase was a long and _____ task.

A. minute

B. vigilant

C. painstaking

D. minuscule

2. You'll just have to _____ yourself to the fact that you can't always have what you want.

A. acknowledge

B. reconcile

C. concede

D. allow

3. The student had no money left and took out a loan to _____ him over until the end of term.

A. last

B. tend

C. keep

D. tide

4. Money was short and people survived by _____ and saving.

A. scrimping

B. scavenging

C. scouring

D. scrounging

5. When are we going to get rid of all these empty cartons? They've been _____ up the office for weeks now.

A. buttering

B. clutching

C. cluttering

D. botching

6. This is the _____ timetable for the conference. It may change later

A. conditional

B. indefinite

C. provisional

D.

indeterminate

7. She didn't show even a _____ of emotion when the court found her guilty.

A. gleam

B. wink

C. flicker

D. flash

8. Few people can do creative work unless they are in the right _____ of mind.

A. trend

B. frame

C. attitude

D. tendency

9. It was decided that the cost of the project would be _____ and so it was abandoned.

A. repressive

B. prohibitive

C. restrictive

D. exclusive

10. I didn't really feel like memorizing all these definitions. It was only the risk of getting another bad mark that made me _____ myself.

- A. exert B. absorb C. endeavour D. deploy

11. In times of _____, unemployment figures usually rise dramatically.

- A. austerity B. severity C. sobriety D. gravity

12. The delight in treasure finding doesn't always _____ acquiring tremendous amounts of valuables.

- A. dwell on B. poke around C. lay about D. hinge upon

13. She used the map to discover where she was in _____ to her surroundings.

- A. connection B. affinity C. relation D. reference

14. He let it _____ that the Prime Minister was a close friend of his.

- A. announce B. talk C. drop D. infer

15. I was in the _____ of despair before I heard the good news.

- A. depths B. profundities C. bottoms D. holes

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
11.	12.	13.	14.	15.

Part 2. The passage has five errors. Find out the errors and write the errors and the corrections in the provided space. (5pts)

Line	Passage
1	Watching a successful theatre production is an amazing experience. The performance
2	looks effortless and everything goes smoothly but this often lies the amount of work
3	that was actually involved. At the Palace Theatre, the average time from the first
4	rehearsal to opening night is just four weeks of intensive work. Everyone involved
5	attends the first read-through by the cast, so this is an ideal opportunity to get an
6	insight into how a production germinates.
7	I took myself to the theatre on a chilly October morning to attend the read-through of
8	the theatre's new production - the British premiere of Sive, by the acclaim Irish
9	playwright John B Keane. It is about a young girl about to be married off for money to
10	an old man, while her true love can only look on helpless. It is a poignant portrayal of a
11	rural family life, rich in comedy and filled with memorable characters played by an

12	Irish cast for linguistic authenticity.
13	“It’s important for people to have a sense of common purpose and teamwork,” explain
14	director Ben Barnes. “The play has been in pre-production since June but this is the
15	first reading and it will be indicative to how the actors work together. And it’s for the theatre staff as much as the actors.”

Your answers:

No	Line	Error	Correction
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Part 3. Supply the correct word form to complete each of the following sentences. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10pts)

1. Some students drawn by the _____ (TEMPT) of exotic Southeast Asian countries spend their time backpacking through Thailand and Vietnam.
2. Presumably, some parents think that studying and attending _____ (TUTOR) are more important than seeing something of the real world.
3. As he was walking home late last night, Mr. Jones saw a strange _____ (SPHERE) shape in the sky and rang the police immediately.
4. If sales don’t improve, we’ll have to declare _____ (BANK) within a year.
5. someone who is _____ will receive no personal advantage from a situation, so their advice or a decision relating to it will probably be fair.
6. The next time you are in a dark place in the countryside at night, look up at the night sky and wonder at the _____ (NUMBER) stars set out in the heavens before you.
7. My uncle Warren is a thoroughly _____ (DESPISE) character. His one redeeming feature is that he loves children.
8. When we started living together we realized how _____ (COMPARE) we were - our interests were so different.
9. The newspaper _____ (MISSION) a series of articles on the worst excesses of the fashion industry.

10. Medical records cannot be disclosed without _____ (AUTHOR) from the patient.

Your answers:

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

III. READING: 60/200

Part 1. For questions 1-10, read the following passage and choose the word that best fits each of the blanks. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 pts)

It only (1)_____ the completion of the reconstruction of the human genetic map for a whole host of hereditary diseases to be eradicated. Originally, it was forecast that the venture would take until the beginning of the 21st century to be (2)_____. At present, it is clear that the task can be finished much earlier.

Hundreds of scholars have gone to extremes to help (3)_____ the mystery of the human genetic structure with an ardent hope for (4)_____ mankind from disorders such as cancer, cystic fibrosis, or arthritis.

The progress in this incredible undertaking is (5)_____ by an accurate interpretation of the information involved in the chromosomes forming the trillions of cells in the human body. Locating and characterizing every single gene may sound like an implausible assignment, but very considerable (6) _____ has already been made. What we know by now is that the hereditary code is assembled in DNA, some parts of which may be diseased, and (7)_____ to the uncontrollable transmission of the damaged code from parents to their children.

Whereas work at the completion of the human genome may last for a few years more, notions like gene therapy or genetic engineering don't (8)_____ much surprise any longer. Their potential application has already been (9)_____ in the effective struggle against many viruses or in the genetic treatment of blood disorders. The hopes are, then, that hundreds of maladies that humanity is (10)_____ with at present might eventually cease to exist in the not-too-distant future.

- | | | | | |
|----|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | A. expects | B. anticipates | C. requires | D. remains |
| 2. | A. dismantled | B. discharged | C. accomplished | D. exterminated |
| 3. | A. dissolve | B. interrogate | C. respond | D. unravel |

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 4. | A. liberating | B. insulating | C. surviving | D. averting |
| 5. | A. dependent | B. reliant | C. qualified | D. conditioned |
| 6. | A. headline | B. headway | C. heading | D. headship |
| 7. | A. amiable | B. conceivable | C. conducive | D. evocative |
| 8. | A. evoke | B. institute | C. discharge | D. encourage |
| 9. | A. examined | B. inquired | C. corroborated | D. accounted |
| 10. | A. aggravated | B. plagued | C. persecuted | D. teased |

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

Part 2. Fill each of the blanks with ONE suitable word to complete the passage. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 pts)

A lot has been written about women's access to technology being less than (1) _____ granted to men. Women seem to be shunted to one side when the conversation (2) _____ to the subjects of technology. The vast majority of software or hardware engineers are men; although there are no (3) _____ yet, it would probably be fair to say that the same would be true for program writers. (4) _____ seems to be a male conspiracy in the area. Women may be computer literate but not technologically innovative: another common belief which should be seriously challenged, as (5) _____ the idea that only a mother can care for a child - a common enough belief in the 1950s.

Scientists at the forefront of innovative technology are overwhelmingly men. (6) _____, for example, the fields of IVF (in vitro fertilisation, which helps infertile couples to (7) _____) or cloning. All the major players in these fields are men. There have been no conclusive studies (8) _____ out as to why this should be. However, we should attempt to redress this situation, (9) _____ women have intellects equal to the male of the species and these should be used to add new insights and perspectives (10) _____ this male-dominated field.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

Part 3. Read the passage and choose one of four options to answer the questions. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 pts)

A History of the World in 100 Objects

In this book, we travel back in time and across the globe, to see how we have shaped our world and been shaped by it over the last two million years. The book tries to tell a history of the world in a way that has not been attempted before, by deciphering the messages that objects communicate across time - messages about peoples and places, environments and interactions, about different moments in history and our own time as we reflect upon it. These signals from the past - some reliable, some conjectural, many still to be retrieved - are unlike other evidence we are likely to encounter. They speak of whole societies and complex processes rather than individual events and tell of the world for which they were made.

The history that emerges from these objects will seem unfamiliar to many. There are few well-known dates, famous battles, or celebrated incidents. **Canonical** events the making of the Roman Empire, the Mongol destruction of Baghdad, and the European Renaissance - are not center stage. They are, however, present, refracted through individual objects. Thus, in my chapter on the ancient inscribed tablet known as the Rosetta Stone, for example, I show that it has played a starring role in three fascinating stories: as a legal document in ancient Egyptian times; as a trophy during the rivalry between the French and the British; and finally as a key to the decipherment of the ancient Egyptian writing system at the end of the 19th century.

If you want to tell the history of the whole world, a history that does not unduly privilege one part of humanity, you cannot do it through texts alone, because only some of the world has ever had written records, while most of the world, for most of the time, has not. The clearest example of this asymmetry between literate and non-literate history is perhaps the first encounter between Europeans and Australian Aboriginals. From the European side, we have **eyewitness accounts** and scientific reports. From the Australian side, we have only a wooden shield dropped by a man in flight after his first experience of gunshot. If we want to reconstruct what was actually going on that day, the shield must be interrogated and interpreted as deeply and as rigorously as the written reports.

All so much easier said than done. Writing history from the study of texts is a familiar process, and we have centuries of critical apparatus to assist our assessment of written records. We have learned how to judge their frankness, their distortions, and their **ploys**. With objects, we do of course have structures of expertise archaeological, scientific, and anthropological - which allow us to ask critical questions. But we have to add to that a considerable leap of imagination, returning the artifact to its former life, engaging with it as generously, as poetically, as we can in the hope of winning the insights it may deliver.

One of the characteristics of things is that they change or are changed long after they have been created, taking on new meanings that could never have been imagined at the outset. A startlingly large number of our objects bear on them the marks of later events. Sometimes this is merely the damage that comes with time, or from clumsy excavation or forceful removal. But frequently, later interventions were designed deliberately to change meaning or to reflect the pride or pleasures of new ownership. The object becomes a document not just of the world for which it was made, but of the later periods which altered it.

History looks different depending on who you are and where you are looking from. So although all these objects in the book are now in museums, it deliberately includes many different voices and perspectives. It draws on the museums' own experts, but it also presents research and analysis by leading scholars from all over the world, as well as comments by people who deal professionally with objects similar to those discussed. This book also includes voices from the communities or countries where the objects were made, as only they can explain what meanings these things still carry in their homeland. Countries and communities around the world are increasingly defining themselves through new readings of their history, and that history is frequently **anchored** in such things. So a museum is not just a collection of objects: it is an arena where such issues can be debated and contested on a global scale.

1. What claim does the author make about his book in the first paragraph?
 - A. It benefits from new evidence that has not been available to previous historians.
 - B. It looks at history from the point of view of society rather than individuals.
 - C. It approaches the interpretation of the past from a novel perspective.
 - D. It re-evaluates the significance of certain events.
2. What is the word “**Canonical**” in the passage closest in meaning to?
 - A. unwonted
 - B. acknowledged
 - C. heterodox
 - D. schismatic
3. The Rosetta Stone serves as an example of an object _____.
 - A. whose meaning has been re-interpreted many times.
 - B. whose significance has changed over time.
 - C. which has been fought over for many reasons.
 - D. which explains key events over various historical periods.
4. The author believes that basing a history of the world on texts alone _____.
 - A. leads to too many interpretations.
 - B. distorts oral versions of history.

- C. fails to take account of cultural differences.
- D. results in a biased view of history.
5. The author says that compared to the interpretation of texts, the interpretation of objects calls for ____.
- A. a greater level of intuition.
- B. more specialised historical background.
- C. a more analytical approach.
- D. greater attention to detail.
6. What does the phrase “**eyewitness accounts**” refer to?
- A. an examination of all the relevant information on a subject or on a series of events
- B. a short statement that gives only the main points of something, not the details
- C. a written or spoken thoughts about a particular subject or topic
- D. a description given by someone who was present at an event
7. What is the author's attitude to the fact that objects often change over time?
- A. He regrets that so many objects have been accidentally damaged.
- B. He welcomes this as a further layer of significance.
- C. He believes that this makes it easier to judge the importance of the object.
- D. He deplores the fact that people have deliberately altered ancient artefacts.
8. What can the word “**ploys**” in the passage be replaced by?
- A. subterfuge B. buffoonery C. joviality D. eudaemonia
9. Why does the author include comments from people who live in the area where the object was made?
- A. They can throw light on its original function.
- B. They have the skills needed to re-create it.
- C. They help us see it in its wider cultural context.
- D. They feel ideas related to it have been neglected.
10. What is the word “**anchored**” in the passage closest in meaning to?
- A. apportioned B. segregated C. absconded D. affixed

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

Part 4. Read the following text and do the tasks. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (20 pts)

Singapore – a city like no other

A

Singapore, a land of contrasts and contradictions, is a canvas painted with vibrant hues of multiculturalism, innovation, and natural beauty. A place where towering skyscrapers and lush greenery coexist in perfect harmony, it is an urban masterpiece that never fails to captivate and inspire. This city-state nestled on the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula is a tapestry of diverse cultures, each adding its own unique thread to the fabric of Singaporean society. From the bustling streets of Chinatown to the ornate mosques of Kampong Glam and the colorful temples of Little India, Singapore is a kaleidoscope of sights, sounds, and flavors that tantalize the senses. With a population of approximately 5.7 million people, it is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, only surpassed by Macau and Monaco. Despite its small size, Singapore is a thriving and prosperous nation, known for its cleanliness, safety, and economic success.

B

While certain archaeological evidence suggests that the history of Singapore dates back to the early 13th century, bearing the name of Temasek, a small trading port, the well-documented period of this country only starts in 1819 when colonisation by the British Empire took place. Because of its strategic location at the southern tip of the peninsula, it was a natural hub for trade between China, India, and the Indonesian archipelago. Chinese junks, Indian dhows, and Malay proas would all converge on its shores to exchange goods and ideas. Naturally, it was a very lucrative territory to have control over. Sir Stamford Raffles, a British colonialist and explorer was aware of the country's potential as a trading center but wary of its perceived lawlessness. At the time, Singapore was known for its shady reputation. Pirates, smugglers, and other unsavoury characters were said to lurk in its waters, ready to pounce on unsuspecting ships. Raffles' approach to the issue was rather unconventional for the time. He implemented a policy of offering clemency to pirates who surrendered and gave up their criminal activities. This policy was designed to encourage pirates to abandon their criminal ways and become productive members of society. Raffles also established a system of licensing and regulation for boats and ships to ensure that they were not involved in piracy.

C

Under British rule, Singapore flourished. It became one of the busiest ports in the world, handling everything from spices and textiles to opium and slaves. Its population grew rapidly as

people from all over Asia and beyond flocked to its shores in search of work and opportunities. By the early 20th century, Singapore had transformed into a modern city-state with a thriving economy. But Singapore's road to success was not without challenges. World War II was perhaps the darkest chapter in its history. When the Japanese invaded it in 1942, they unleashed a wave of terror and brutality that left thousands dead and the city in ruins. The British, who were in charge of defending Singapore, were caught off guard and quickly overwhelmed. Despite having a larger number of troops, the British were poorly equipped and trained, so they were unable to stop the Japanese advance. On February 15, 1942, Lieutenant-General Arthur Percival, the British commander in Singapore, surrendered the island to the Japanese. The fall of Singapore was a major blow to the Allied war effort in the Pacific. It remained under Japanese control until the end of the war. In 1945, after Japan's surrender, the British returned and resumed control of the colony. Singapore gained its sovereignty in 1965.

D

The rest, as the well-known adage goes, is history. The tropical city-state grew from strength to strength, becoming a prosperous and stable nation in a volatile region. One of the key factors contributing to the country's rapid development is its location, which makes it a hub for trade and commerce. The country's strategic location, stable political environment, well-developed infrastructure, and strong workforce make it a popular destination for global investors. It has consistently been recognized as one of the easiest places to do business in the world and is ranked second in the World Bank's Doing Business 2020 report. Overall investment-friendly environment is supported by the government's pro-business stance, including attractive tax incentives as well as transparent regulations. Another important element vital to Singapore's success is its government's zero tolerance for crime or misbehaviour. The country is known for its strict laws, particularly when it comes to public order and laws related to garbage disposal. The latter is what probably made Singapore known to many people, as fines for littering can exceed thousands of dollars, with repeat offenders facing corrective labour. Singapore's stringent approach is even more unforgiving to so-called DUI, or driving under the influence of alcohol or other substances. Sentences for that can include prison time for up to 12 months in addition to hefty fines. Possession of drugs is seen as one of the most heinous crimes – a person whose guilt has been proven might be subjected to capital punishment.

E

Singapore of today is one huge sight to behold. Some of its parts stand out in particular, the most famous and iconic being the Marina Bay Sands resort, which includes a hotel, casino, and

shopping mall. The resort is built on reclaimed land and features a spectacular infinity pool that overlooks the city. Another one is the Merlion, a popular tourist attraction that is a statue of a mythical creature that is half-lion and half-fish. Despite its small size, Singapore is also home to a number of world-class museums and cultural institutions. The National Gallery of Singapore, for example, is housed in the former Supreme Court Building and City Hall and features a collection of Singaporean and Southeast Asian art. Ultimately, Singapore's success story is a result of the resilience, hard work, and ingenuity of its people, who have worked tirelessly to build a modern and prosperous nation. With its impeccably clean, well-planned streets, governmental efficiency, and attractive business climate, the place is a shining example of what can be achieved when a country is committed to progress and development. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a long-time resident, Singapore is a city that never fails to amaze and inspire.

Questions 1-5. The reading passage has five paragraphs (A-E). Choose the most suitable heading for each paragraph from the list below.

List of Headings	Paragraph
I. A bumpy road	1. Paragraph A
II. Business is everything	2. Paragraph B
III. Simply the best	3. Paragraph C
IV. Rich in many things	4. Paragraph D
V. Trading favours	5. Paragraph E
VI. Worth looking up to	
VII. Successful policies	

Questions 6-10. Do the following statements agree with the information in the reading passage 1? In boxes on your Answer Sheet, write:

TRUE if the statement is true according to the passage.

FALSE if the statement contradicts the passage.

NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this in the passage.

6. The cultural composition of Singapore is mostly homogeneous.

7. There aren't many historical records on the earlier period of Singapore's history.

8. The British Empire came to Singapore to ensure its safety from piracy.

9. As per Raffles' initiative, sea vessels had to have a license to be involved in trade.

10. Singapore is a good example of what can be achieved when a country is committed to progress and development.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

Part 5. You are going to read an article about the value of boredom. For questions 1-10, choose from the sections of the article (A-D). 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. (10 pts)

In which section of the article is the following mentioned?

1. _____ points out a drawback in failing to allow time for mundane reflection?
2. _____ comments on a personal experience of using a particular psychological technique?
3. _____ comments on the broad appeal that a particular notion might potentially have?
4. _____ suggests that boredom as a way of dealing with a problem is not a new idea?
5. _____ distinguishes between mere reflection and conscious avoidance of mental stimulation?
6. _____ refers to the communication of an erroneous message?
7. _____ refers to an activity indicative of modern life taking place in various locations?
8. _____ outlines a positive consequence of distancing oneself from technology?
9. _____ explains that a particular finding supported existing knowledge?
10. _____ remarks on the significance of monotony in the development of the human species?

Time Out

It seems that embracing boredom and allowing ourselves to drift away could be good for us.

A

Consider any public place where people used to enjoy a spot of silent contemplation – from train carriages and beauty spots to our local streets – and these days you’ll see people plugged into their seductive electronic sources of constant stimulation. All this information overload seems like a terribly modern-day problem. But one unique thinker actually stumbled on a neat solution several decades ago: radical boredom. In 1942, a German writer called Siegfried Karcauer wrote despairingly of the massive over-stimulation of the modern city where people listening to the radio were in a state of ‘permanent receptivity, constantly pregnant with London, the Eiffel Tower, Berlin.’ His answer was to suggest a period of total withdrawal from stimulation – to cut ourselves off and experience ‘extraordinary, radical boredom’. On a sunny afternoon when everyone is outside, one would do best to hang about the train station,” he wrote. ‘Or better yet, stay at home, draw the curtains, and surrender oneself to one’s boredom on the sofa.’”

B

Karcauer believed that actively pursuing boredom in this way was a valuable means of unlocking playful wild ideas far away from plain reality and, better still, achieving ‘a kind of bliss that is almost unearthly’. It’s a beautiful theory and one that would definitely hold an allure for many people. Plus modern research suggests that it might actually have a sound psychological basis. To test the potential positives of boredom, psychologist Dr Sandi Mann asked a group of 40 people to complete a task designed to showcase their creativity. But before they got started on it, a subgroup was asked to perform a suitably dull task – copying numbers from the telephone directory for 15 minutes. The data pointed to the group that had previously endured boredom displaying more creative flair during the task than the control group. According to psychologists, this is normal because when people become bored and start to daydream, their minds come up with different processes and they work out more creative solutions to problems

C

This would suggest perhaps, that by overstimulating our minds, we’re not just making ourselves more stressed, we’re also missing out on a chance to unhook our thoughts from the daily grind and think more creatively. Having said that, psychologists also point out that despite its bad reputation, boredom has a definite evolutionary purpose. Mann says “Without it, we’d be like toddlers in a perpetual state of amazement”. Just imagine it: “Wow – look at that fantastic cereal at the bottom of my bowl!” It may be very stimulating, but we’d never get anything done.” That puts me in mind of adults who are addicted to social media and smart phones – attention seeking, scurrying around the internet screaming ‘Look at this! Look at them! Look at me!’ while the real world beyond the electronic devices continues on untroubled and unexamined. Meanwhile, as Mann points out, we’re incorrectly teaching our actual toddlers that boredom and lack of stimulation is something to be feared rather than embraced.

D

So how do you learn to tactically embrace periods of radical boredom? The first step is realising that this is different from simply taking time to ponder what you’ve done since getting up that morning. ‘Using boredom positively is about creating new opportunities when your mind isn’t occupied and you can’t focus on anything else,’ says Mann. This could be as simple as staring out the window or watching the rain come down. Or heading off for a solitary walk with no fixed destination in mind, or your smartphone in your pocket. Anything that gives your mind the rare chance to drift off its moorings. ‘I can really recommend it,’ says Mann. ‘It’s a great experience – like taking a holiday from your brain.’ I’m definitely sold. I’m trying to keep my phone turned

off during the weekends and allow myself the odd, dreamy wallow on the sofa during the week, time permitting. And the best thing: it works. After taking a break and allowing my mind to roam, it returns refreshed and revitalized, with a fresh take on the challenges that I face during the day. When my daughter gets to an age when she's ready to whine 'I'm bored', I'll know exactly what to say!

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

IV. WRITING: 60/200

Part 1. Read the passage below and summarize it using 1-3 sentences. Your answer will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your answer presents the key points in the passage.

There is a growing awareness that it won't be long before both corporate adventurers and space tourists reach the Moon and Mars. There is a wealth of important archaeological sites from the history of space exploration on the Moon and Mars and measures need to be taken to protect these sites. In addition to the threat from profit-seeking corporations, scholars cite other potentially destructive forces such as souvenir hunting and unmonitored scientific sampling, as has already occurred in explorations of remote Polar Regions. Already in 1999 one company was proposing a robotic lunar rover mission beginning at the site of Tranquility Base and rumbling across the Moon from one archaeological site to another, from the wreck of the Ranger 8 probe to Apollo 17's landing site. The mission, which would leave vehicle tyre marks all over some of the most famous sites on the Moon, was promoted as a form of theme-park entertainment.

Your answers:

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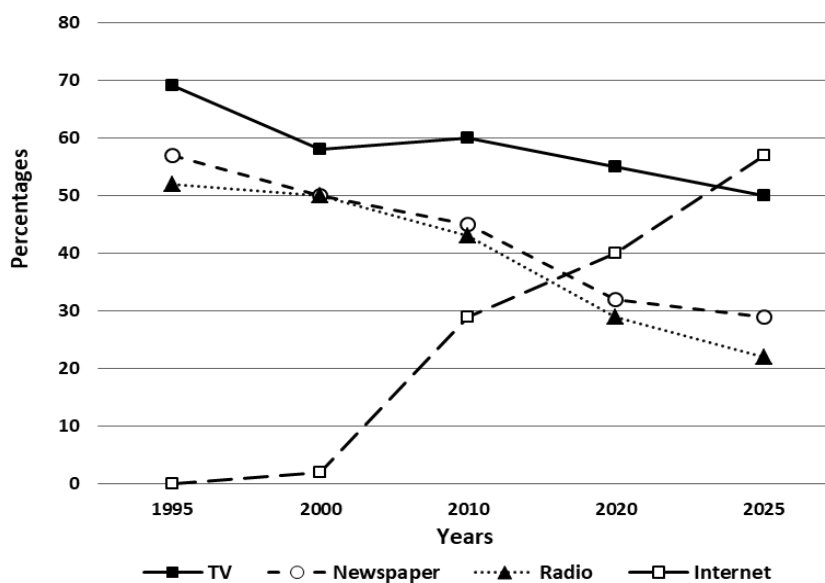
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Part 2. The chart shows the percentage of people who accessed news from 4 sources from 1995 and projections to 2025.

You should write about 150 words.



Your answers:

[illegible]

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

Your answers:

19

Người ra đề 1:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a horizontal line.

Nông Thị Hảo, số điện thoại: 0988303336

Người ra đề 2:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a horizontal line.

Vũ Thị Huệ, số điện thoại: 0983682938