

SECTION A: LISTENING (50 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 the other instructions are included in the recording.

Part 1. You will hear an interview with Rick Plano. For questions 1-5, complete the summary below. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (10 points)

Rick Plano has been an AARP member for years, and after appreciating their work, he decided to become a (1) _____. He first joined a smaller group called **Wish of a Lifetime**, which he describes as similar to a make-a-wish for seniors.

Although many assume AARP is only for seniors, people can actually (2) _____. Rick has participated in a wide range of activities, including helping at political debates and even launching a (3) _____. He also distributed brochures at a ballet performance and later got to see it. Volunteering has made him more aware of issues in Chicago and Illinois and helped him become a more informed citizen.

Because he long cared for a parent with Alzheimer's, Rick lobbied for bills supporting (4) _____. His efforts earned him the prestigious Andrus award, awarded to those showing exceptional civic responsibility. Rick says that even after his career slowed down, volunteering gave him a renewed sense of (5) _____. Through AARP, he feels he has found his tribe—a community of people dedicated to helping others.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	

Part 2. You will hear a talk about the intelligence of animals. For questions 6-10, decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG). Write T, F, or NG in the corresponding numbered boxes on our answer sheet. (10 points)

6. It is easier to measure animal intelligence than to define it.
7. The resulting data may be unreliable due to the inconsistent level of hunger among subjects.
8. The pointing test involves training an animal to anticipate discovering food in multiple spots.
9. The mirror test has been successfully used on a wide range of animal species.
10. All scientists believe that current tests accurately measure animal intelligence.

Your answers:

6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
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Part 3. You will hear an interview with two writers and researchers, Anna Baldwin and Richard Simmons, on the topic of handwriting. For questions 11-15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear. Write your answers (A, B, C or D) in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (10 pts)

11. Anna and Richard agree that writing things by hand is useful
 - A. in the teaching of some science subjects.
 - B. in helping people remember certain information.
 - C. because it is unexpectedly time-saving compared to typing.
 - D. because it serves to stimulate the imagination of authors.
12. Anna and Richard agree that the teaching of handwriting in primary school
 - A. ensures good literacy skills later on in life.
 - B. is suffering from a growing lack of public interest.
 - C. occupies a significant part of the current syllabus.
 - D. has little impact on a child's overall development
13. How does Richard view the potential disappearance of handwriting?
 - A. He accepts that it will be a sad day for humanity.
 - B. He sees it as a natural progression.
 - C. He is confident that it won't happen soon.
 - D. He is concerned that it may impact on our sociability.
14. Anna refers to writing throughout history in order to illustrate
 - A. the flexibility of the medium.
 - B. the evolution of communication.
 - C. its influence on major events.
 - D. its contribution to learning.
15. Anna says there is evidence that the traditional focus on handwriting has resulted in
 - A. an increased desire for equal opportunities.
 - B. a preference for using the typed word at work.
 - C. some people abandoning their education.
 - D. some people's true abilities being overlooked.

Your answers:

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
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Part 4. You will listen to part of a talk about Why America still uses Fahrenheit . For questions 16-25, complete the summary by writing NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS in each gap. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (20 points)

The (16) _____, adopted by most of the world, simplifies conversions and displays simpler temperature scales (Celsius) with freezing and boiling points (0 and 100), unlike the more complex Fahrenheit scale. This issue transcends mere weather updates or (17) _____.

The United States' refusal to adopt the metric system has had costly repercussions, as evidenced by the loss of a \$125 million Mars satellite in 1999 due to a (18) _____.

A German scientist invented the (19) _____ in 1714, which enabled him to develop a more consistent and accurate temperature scale. His temperature scale was formally established in 1724, allowing Fahrenheit to be (20) _____ into the British Royal Society. It then gained popularity in Britain, which adopted the scale and other (21) _____ as it expanded its empire in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The US attempted to adopt the metric system, which would have benefited trade and (22) _____ with the rest of the world, hence the formulation of the Metric Conversion Act, which created the only metric highway sign in the US, on (23) _____ connecting Arizona to Mexico.

Public resistance and the Metric Board's inability to enforce the conversion led to its disbandment by President Reagan in 1982. A subsequent nudge to metricate came in 1988, when the metric system became the preferred measurement system for American (24) _____.

Dosage conversion errors account for approximately 3,000-4,000 cases of (25) _____ in children brought to the emergency room each year in the US.

Your answers:

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

SECTION B: LEXICO-GRAMMAR (40 points)

Part 1. For questions 26-45, choose the best option A, B, C, or D to complete the following sentences. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (20 points)

26. Only after weeks at sea did we realize how wonderful it was to feel firm ground _____ our feet once more.

A. behind B. beneath C. below D. over

27. Top fashion models often spend hundreds of pounds _____.

A. getting straightened their teeth B. straightened their teeth

C. getting their teeth straightened D. having got their teeth

straightening

28. The gold and silver decorations made the room look extremely _____ and completely over the top.

A. ostentatious B. tantalizing C. tactful D.

benevolent

29. _____ that even senior researchers, despite years of experience in the field, struggled to interpret the findings accurately.

A. So controversial were the results B. The results were such controversial

C. Such the results were controversial D. So were the results controversial

30. The professor's explanation was so _____ that even complex theories became easy for students to understand.

A. obscure B. lucid C. tedious D.

ambiguous

31. Although the initial proposal was widely criticized for being unrealistic, the research team refused to _____ the idea and continued refining it until it proved successful.

A. climb down from B. brush up on C. pop in on D. hold on

to

32. The report strongly _____ the need for immediate action to address the growing problem of plastic pollution in the oceans.

A. stresses B. pushes C. presses D. forces

33. The kids were _____ in the living room, laughing and chasing one another, when they accidentally knocked over a lamp and made a terrible mess.

A. beetling about B. haring off C. horsing around D. wolfing

down

34. Although the politician initially denied any wrongdoing, the overwhelming evidence eventually _____ his claim of innocence.

A. substantiated B. refuted C. consolidated D.

mitigated

35. After months of ignoring customer complaints and failing to improve product quality, the company knew it would be _____ once the results of the independent audit were released.

A. in the red B. in the firing line

C. on cloud nine D. out of the woods

36. Although the scientist's theory initially gained considerable attention in academic circles, several later studies began to _____ the assumptions on which it was based.

A. chip away at B. fall back on C. set forth in D. put up for

37. He soon came to be regarded as a historian _____, meticulous in research, balanced in judgment, and admired for the clarity of his arguments.

A. of some distinction B. at short notice C. at loose ends D. in cold blood

38. Apparently, Lewis would rather we _____ anything particularly special to mark the occasion of his 18th birthday.

A. don't organise B. didn't organise C. haven't organised D. aren't going to

39. Through clever manipulation, the man has _____ the password out of the innocent girl to obtain access to the confidential database.

A. worked B. wolfed C. wormed D. stamped

40. Student A: Looking back, I really should never have agreed to help fix her car in the first place.

Student B: _____.

A. Famous last words B. Well, you live and learn
C. It's a small world D. You can't win them all

41. In workplace management, confronting _____ refusal from an employee can be easier than dealing with deceptive compliance.

A. an offset B. a remedial C. an agile D. an outright

42. The chairperson demanded that, under no circumstances, _____ the confidential data to anyone outside the research team prior to official authorization.

A. the interns disclose B. do the interns disclose
C. the interns disclosed D. the interns will disclose

43. He derives no greater pleasure than spending his Sunday mornings leisurely _____ in the gardens, attending to minor tasks and enjoying the quiet rhythm of nature.

A. pottering about B. hanging around
C. whiling away D. winding down

44. _____ to be universally applicable across cultures, the theory has recently been questioned by several prominent anthropologists.

A. Having long assumed B. Having long been assumed
C. Having been long assumed D. Being long assumed

45. His _____ personality brought a lively atmosphere to every gathering, making people feel instantly at ease and eager to join the conversation.

A. exhaustive B. fragrant C. exuberant D. aromatic

Your answers:

26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
31.	32.	33.	34.	35.
36.	37.	38.	39.	40.
41.	42.	43.	44.	45.

Part 2. For questions 46-55, fill each gap with the correct form of the word in brackets. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (10 points)

46. _____ and disinfectants are widely used in hospitals to kill bacteria and prevent the spread of infections among patients and medical staff. **(SEPTIC)**
47. It is a common misconception that _____ human blood is blue rather than dark red when it circulates through the veins. **(OXYGEN)**
48. They claim that the apparent fall in unemployment is actually the result of a(n) _____ manipulation of official statistics by the authorities. **(FRAUD)**
49. Hundreds of _____ who fled the conflict zone were provided with temporary shelter and essential supplies by local authorities. **(EVACUATE)**
50. He spoke _____ during the debate, using complicated terms without clearly explaining his ideas. **(INTELLECT)**
51. The agency is known for its rapid _____ handling visa applications. **(TURN)**
52. The government attempted to break the _____ that large corporations had over the energy market. **(STRANGLE)**
53. The research station was deliberately built at a point _____ from the three neighboring villages to ensure fair and convenient access for all residents. **(DISTANCE)**
54. The politician filed a lawsuit against the newspaper, claiming that the article contained _____ accusations that seriously damaged his reputation. **(SLANDER)**
55. The patient's condition _____ worsened overnight, making the change difficult for the doctors to detect at first. **(PERCEIVE)**

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

Part 3. For questions 56-60, each of the following sentences contains ONE mistake. FIND and CORRECT it. (10 points)

56. The professor's lecture was so comprehensive that many students found it difficult to distinguish the main argument with the numerous supporting details.
57. The committee praised the scientist for his ingenuous approach to data analysis, noting that his methods were carefully designed to avoid unnecessary complexity.
58. The debate has centered on whether developers, especially those involved in large-scale systems, should hold accountable for unintended consequences.

59. What distinguishes the more popular individual sports from the rest is that they are those in socializing remains an integral aspect, particularly in activities such as tennis, golf, sailing and snooker.

60. The proposal was rejected on the grounds that it lacked sufficient coherently and failed to address several critical assumptions underpinning the model.

Your answers:

Errors	Correction
56.	
57.	
58.	
59.	
60.	

SECTION C: READING (6.0 points)

Part 1. For questions 61-70, read the following passage and decide which option (A, B, C, or D) best fits each gap. Write your answers in corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (10 points)

The Escalating Crisis of Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution has emerged as one of the most pressing environmental challenges of the 21st century, (61) _____ profound and far-reaching impacts on both marine ecosystems and human societies. It is estimated that millions of tonnes of plastic debris enter the oceans annually, where they persist for decades, if not centuries, due to their non-biodegradable nature. This prolonged persistence (62) _____ the accumulation of waste and intensifies ecological degradation over time.

A particularly alarming consequence of plastic pollution lies in its detrimental effects on marine fauna. Numerous species inadvertently ingest plastic materials, mistaking them (63) _____ prey. Sea turtles, for instance, frequently confuse floating plastic bags with jellyfish, while seabirds consume microplastic fragments that resemble small marine organisms. Such ingestion can lead to internal injuries, starvation, and ultimately mortality. Moreover, plastics often contain toxic additives, which may (64) _____ into aquatic environments, thereby entering the food chain and posing potential risks to human health.

Equally concerning is the proliferation of microplastics—minute particles resulting from the fragmentation of larger plastic items. These particles have become ubiquitous, (65) _____ detected in oceans, freshwater systems, atmospheric air, and even potable water supplies. Although research into their long-term implications remains ongoing, preliminary findings suggest that microplastics may adversely affect both ecological stability and physiological health.

In response to this escalating crisis, a range of mitigation strategies has been implemented globally. Governments are increasingly enacting regulations to curb the production and consumption of single-use plastics, while industries are investing in biodegradable alternatives and circular economy models. (66) _____, individuals are encouraged to adopt more sustainable consumption patterns, such as minimizing plastic usage and enhancing recycling practices.

Nevertheless, experts underscore that addressing plastic pollution (67) _____ coordinated international action. Given the transboundary nature of marine pollution, isolated efforts are insufficient (68) _____ meaningful progress. Only through sustained global collaboration, coupled with technological innovation and public awareness, (69) _____ the adverse impacts of plastic pollution be effectively mitigated. Without such collective efforts, the problem is likely to (70) _____ further in the coming decades.

(Adapted from UNEP and National Geographic.)

<https://www.unep.org/plastic-pollution>

hoặc: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/plastic-pollution>

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 61. A. exerting | B. imposing | C. entailing | D. yielding |
| 62. A. compounds | B. amplifies | C. precipitates | D. reinforces |
| 63. A. as | B. for | C. with | D. into |
| 64. A. leach | B. diffuse | C. permeate | D. disperse |
| 65. A. being | B. having been | C. to be | D. having |
| 66. A. Accordingly | B. Conversely | C. Notwithstanding | D. Subsequently |
| 67. A. necessitates | B. invokes | C. entails | D. prescribes |
| 68. A. to attaining | B. to attain | C. attaining | D. for attaining |
| 69. A. can | B. might | C. are | D. would |
| 70. A. deteriorate | B. escalate | C. exacerbate | D. intensify |

Your answers:

61.	62.	63.	64.	65.
66.	67.	68.	69.	70.

Part 2. For questions 71-80, fill each of the blanks with ONE suitable word. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (10 points)

Nvidia, currently the world's most valuable company, appears intent not merely (71) _____ consolidating its dominance in artificial intelligence, but also on redefining the very foundations upon which its future development is (72) _____. Central to this strategic pivot (73) _____ the rapid emergence of AI agents—systems capable of executing complex tasks with minimal human input. So profound is this shift (74) _____ it has, in effect, rendered obsolete a number of long-held assumptions about computational infrastructure. No longer (75) _____ GPUs

considered sufficient in their own right; instead, architectures more conducive to agent-based processing are being prioritised.

Such a transition is by no (76) _____ incidental, but rather symptomatic of a broader realisation that the computational demands of autonomous systems differ fundamentally from those of traditional AI models, the latter (77) _____ been primarily designed for reactive _____ rather _____ than _____ proactive _____ functions. At the core of these developments lies OpenClaw, (78) _____ rise has been nothing short of meteoric. Nvidia has not only embraced this platform but also sought to augment it with security protocols, without (79) _____ its real-world applicability would be open to question.

This strategic reorientation reflects a growing (80) _____ among industry leaders that future competitiveness will depend less on raw processing power and more on system-level integration.

(Adapted from CNN Business)

[\(The world's most valuable company just sent another signal that AI agents are going to be everywhere | CNN Business\)](#)

Your answers:

71.	72.	73.	74.	75.
76.	77.	78.	79.	80.

Part 3. For questions 81-90, read the following passage and circle the best answer to each of the following questions. Write your answers in corresponding numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet. (15 points)

My Digital Detox

Spending a weekend without access to communications technology was an eye-opener. We were brushing through wet grass in the early morning when we saw it – a flash of white drifting behind a small patch of trees, backlit by the sun. Crouching down next to Artley, our twenty-one-month-old son, my partner Will and I watched the unmistakable shape of a barn owl until it disappeared into the wood. The look on Artley's face was part of a brief moment of magic, the kind of moment you live for. Ordinarily, my next thought would have been to pull out my phone, take a photo or video and send a message. Connecting is something I do unconsciously now, and sharing such moments has become second nature.

The meaningful and the mundane have thus **merged into one**, all dutifully and habitually recorded – my enjoyment split between that technological impulse and the more delicate human need to be in the moment. This is how we live these days. That weekend, however, the three of us were, by our own choice, offline. We were camping at a rural site called Swallowtail Hill in southern England, which offers visitors the option of leaving all their electronic devices in the safe keeping of the owner for the

duration of their stay – a kind of digital detox, you might say. We had been inspired by William Powers' book *Hamlet's BlackBerry*, an imaginative and thoughtful work that explores reactions to new technologies throughout history and the lessons we should have learnt from them. Blessed with two days of good weather and some delicious local food, I barely noticed I wasn't online.

What did strike me though was the change in Will's behaviour. If my worst habit is incessant messaging, his is allowing his phone to take precedence over everything else. Country walks, dinner, bathing our son – no moment is safe from the seemingly irresistible ringing, vibrating, nagging phone, that demands – and wins – his attention when he should be enjoying the moment with us.

I take equal responsibility for our digital obsession – magnetically drawn, as I am, to any screen that can feed my addiction. Nonetheless, any objections of mine to this specific vice are usually swiftly deflected by an explanation of the importance of dealing with whatever it is now, though it never seems anything that couldn't wait half an hour. Suddenly, however, he had his full attention – well almost. There was a moment when he was distracted by a buzzing sensation and automatically reached for his phone, before realising it was a bee.

In truth, he wasn't alone in such lapses. Without our hand-held devices, neither of us had much idea what the time was. Then, I reached for mine when I wondered about local shopping facilities and whether it is normal to see a barn owl during the day. And the magical moment when Artley was being read his bedtime story in front of an open fire, I've had to try and commit to my own fallible memory.

By breaking away from my connected life, however, I came to appreciate just how much it had permeated my way of being. So-called 'early adopters', the heavy technology users who throw themselves at every new device and service, will admit to an uncontrollable impulse to check their email accounts or social networking sites. Researchers have called this '**variable interval reinforcement schedule**'. Such people have in effect been drawn into digital-message addiction because the most exciting rewards are unpredictable.

What's more, the hustle they develop as they struggle to keep up with the pace of all that incoming information has produced a restless, anxious way of engaging with the world. Desperate for efficiency, this seeps into people's physical lives. Perhaps that's why I feel compelled to tidy while on the phone, to fold the washing while brushing my teeth, and no single job has my undivided attention.

A study by the University of California concluded that such constant multi-tasking gradually erodes short-term memory. It also discovered that interruptions to any task requiring concentration are a massive problem, as it takes us much longer to get back into them than it does to deal with the interruption itself.

For those of us compelled to check email every few minutes, that finding accounts for those days which seem to pass so quickly with so little getting done. And this is part of a

wider trend. ‘The more we connect, the more our thoughts **lean outward**,’ Powers writes. There’s a preoccupation with what’s going on ‘out there’ in the bustling otherworld, rather than ‘in here’ with yourself and those right around you. In other words, what was once exterior and faraway is now easily accessible and this carries a sense of obligation or duty. He sees the feeling that we should be reaching out, or be available to be reached out to as tied to the self-affirmation that the internet, and all that goes with it, provides us with.

Like me, he is a true believer in the value and potential of digital technologies. He concludes, however, that we need to find the discipline to restore control by reintroducing a little disconnectedness.

One practical suggestion, for example, is to use paper as a more efficient way of organising our thoughts. The theory of ‘embodied interaction’ asserts that physical objects free our minds to think because our hands and fingers can do much of the work, unlike screens where our brains are constantly in demand.

More radical still is the idea of banning the internet at weekends on the grounds that being away from it on a regular basis allows us to grasp its utility and value more fully. Hopefully, it also brings about a shift to a slower, less restless way of thinking, where you can just be in one place, doing one particular thing, and enjoy it. As we left Swallowtail Hill, we seemed to have achieved that. The real work was just starting, however, trying to put this and other ideas into regular practice in an attempt to balance work and home life. Powers also talks about vanishing family time, where a seemingly sociable family gradually dissolves away to screens in different corners of the house. It’s clearly a situation to be avoided. Our digital detox had been something of a wake-up call. And guess what? When the owner handed back our phones, we didn’t have a missed call or message between us.

Adapted from Expert Proficiency

81. Which of the following best captures the writer’s overall stance towards digital technology?

- A. It is fundamentally harmful and should be avoided
- B. It is beneficial but requires conscious regulation
- C. It is indispensable despite its negative consequences
- D. It is largely responsible for the erosion of human relationships

82. The writer’s description of the barn owl episode primarily serves to _____.

- A. illustrate the unpredictability of nature
- B. contrast authentic experience with mediated experience
- C. highlight the educational value of outdoor activities
- D. emphasise the importance of family bonding

83. The phrase “merged into one” most strongly suggests that _____.
A. experiences are increasingly standardised
B. distinctions between meaningful and trivial experiences are blurred
C. people are unable to distinguish reality from illusion
D. digital recording enhances emotional engagement
84. What is implied about Will through the writer’s account?
A. He is unaware of his dependence on technology
B. He prioritises efficiency over emotional engagement
C. His behaviour reflects a broader societal pattern
D. He uses technology mainly out of necessity
85. The writer’s tone when describing her own behaviour is best described as _____.
A. defensive yet justified
B. self-critical yet reflective
C. detached and analytical
D. ironic and dismissive
86. The reference to “variable interval reinforcement schedule” is used to _____.
A. criticise psychological research on addiction
B. explain why digital habits are difficult to control
C. suggest that addiction is exaggerated
D. compare digital behaviour to traditional habits
87. Which of the following best describes the function of the University of California study in the passage?
A. It provides empirical support for the writer’s observations
B. It introduces a contrasting viewpoint
C. It questions commonly held assumptions
D. It shifts the focus to a different issue
88. The phrase “lean outward” most nearly indicates a tendency to _____.
A. seek validation from external sources
B. prioritise efficiency over depth
C. disengage from social relationships
D. become dependent on technological devices
89. In presenting Powers’ ideas, the writer mainly aims to _____.
A. challenge his conclusions

- B. reinforce her own reflections
- C. introduce an alternative argument
- D. summarise a theoretical framework

90. Which of the following best describes the writer's conclusion?

- A decisive rejection of digital technology
- B. A recognition of the need for sustained behavioural change
- C. A temporary appreciation of disconnection
- D. A reaffirmation of the importance of connectivity

Your answers:

81.	82.	83.	84.	85.
86.	87.	88.	89.	90.

Part 4. For questions 91-100, read the passage and do the following tasks. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (15 points)

The Age of the Goldfish

Paragraph A

In 2000, research placed the average human attention span at approximately 12 seconds. By 2015, however, that figure had fallen to just 8 seconds—shorter than that commonly attributed to a goldfish. This striking comparison has frequently been cited as evidence of a significant cognitive decline. Additional indicators can be observed in broader social and professional contexts. For instance, Sweden's adoption of a six-hour working day was partly justified by the claim that shorter periods of focused work lead to higher productivity. Taken together, such developments suggest that sustained attention is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain in contemporary society.

Paragraph B

These findings have inevitably provoked concern. Some commentators argue that the decreasing ability to concentrate reflects a broader intellectual deterioration, attributing the phenomenon to the pervasive influence of mobile devices and the Internet. The comparison with goldfish, while somewhat exaggerated, appears to reinforce the notion that humans are losing their capacity for deep, sustained thought. Nevertheless, such conclusions may be overly reductive, failing to account for the complex ways in which cognition adapts to changing environments.

Paragraph C

Rather than indicating decline, the apparent reduction in attention span may instead signal a transformation in cognitive behaviour. In an age characterised by constant connectivity

and an overwhelming abundance of information, individuals are increasingly required to process multiple streams of input simultaneously. As a result, multitasking has become a dominant mode of engagement, with attention shifting rapidly between stimuli. Under these conditions, the ability to sustain prolonged focus may be less essential than the capacity to manage fragmented yet continuous interactions with information.

Paragraph D

The implications of this shift are particularly evident in the evolution of digital media and learning platforms. Online video content, which integrates visual and auditory elements, has become a cornerstone of modern communication strategies. By engaging multiple senses simultaneously, such formats are especially effective in capturing attention. At the same time, the proliferation of mobile devices has fundamentally altered learning habits. With individuals reportedly checking their phones hundreds of times per day, learning is no longer confined to formal settings but occurs in short intervals throughout daily life.

Paragraph E

Despite these changes, effective learning strategies continue to draw upon established psychological principles. The work of German psychologist Hermann Ebbinghaus remains particularly relevant. His research demonstrated that information is retained more effectively when exposure is distributed over time rather than concentrated in a single session—a phenomenon known as the spacing effect. In the context of modern learning, where individuals frequently engage with content in brief, intermittent bursts, this principle has gained renewed significance.

Paragraph F

Consequently, contemporary approaches to learning emphasise flexibility, accessibility, and engagement. Educational content is increasingly designed to be consumed in short segments, allowing learners to enter and exit the learning process with ease. Furthermore, interactive and gamified elements—such as rewards, progress tracking, and challenges—are incorporated to sustain motivation. Rather than signalling a decline in intellectual capacity, the so-called “age of the goldfish” represents a shift towards new modes of learning that are better aligned with the demands of a rapidly evolving digital environment.

(Adapted from CPE plus)

Questions 91–96

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

List of Headings

- i. The enduring relevance of established learning theories

- ii. A shift towards new patterns of cognitive processing
- iii. Evidence suggesting a measurable decline in human attention
- iv. Emerging approaches to learning in a changing environment
- v. The influence of digital media and mobile technology on attention
- vi. Oversimplified interpretations of reduced attention span

Your answers:

- 91. Paragraph A _____
- 92. Paragraph B _____
- 93. Paragraph C _____
- 94. Paragraph D _____
- 95. Paragraph E _____
- 96. Paragraph F _____

Questions 97–99

Complete the summary below.

Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage.

The decline in attention span—from 12 seconds to (97) _____ seconds—has led some to assume a reduction in intellectual ability. However, this change may instead reflect an increased reliance on (98) _____ in response to constant exposure to multiple sources of information. In adapting to this environment, modern education has revived principles such as the (99) _____ effect, which emphasises learning over extended periods.

Question 100

Which of the following best reflects the writer’s overall viewpoint?

- A. The reduction in attention span is primarily harmful and should be reversed.
- B. The decline in attention span has been exaggerated and reflects deeper cognitive adaptation.
- C. Modern technology has completely undermined effective learning strategies.
- D. The concept of attention span is no longer relevant in contemporary society.

Your answers:

91.	92.	93.	94.	95.
96.	97.	98.	99.	100.

Part 5: You are going to read four book reviews (A–D). For questions 101–110, choose the most suitable review from the reviews A–D. The reviews may be chosen more than once. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (10 points)

Review A – **Sapiens**

Yuval Noah Harari's *Sapiens* sets out to provide an ambitious and wide-ranging account of human history, tracing the development of Homo sapiens from prehistoric times to the modern era. What makes the book particularly compelling is its readiness to challenge deeply embedded assumptions about progress, capitalism, religion and social organisation. Harari argues that many of the structures underpinning human cooperation are based not on objective truths but on shared fictions, a claim that invites readers to reassess what they consider real or natural. At the same time, the book's sweeping scope and tendency towards generalisation have attracted criticism. Some readers may find its arguments provocative yet insufficiently substantiated, raising questions about the balance between narrative accessibility and academic rigour.

Review B – **Atomic Habits**

In *Atomic Habits*, James Clear translates insights from behavioural psychology into a practical framework for self-improvement. His central thesis—that incremental, consistent changes can lead to significant long-term transformation—is presented through a series of clear principles and real-life examples. Rather than focusing on ambitious goals, Clear emphasises the importance of designing effective systems and routines. This approach has resonated with a wide readership, largely due to the book's clarity and immediate applicability. However, critics have pointed out that many of the concepts are derived from pre-existing research and are repackaged rather than entirely original. Nonetheless, the book succeeds in making complex psychological ideas accessible without significantly oversimplifying them.

Review C – **The Midnight Library**

Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library* offers a thought-provoking exploration of regret, choice and the nature of happiness through an imaginative narrative device. The novel centres on a library that exists between life and death, where each book represents a different version of the protagonist's life, shaped by alternative decisions. This premise allows Haig to examine existential questions in a manner that is both accessible and emotionally engaging. While the novel has been praised for its readability and uplifting message, some critics argue that its philosophical insights are presented in a somewhat simplified manner. Nevertheless, its ability to connect with readers on an emotional level has contributed to its widespread popularity and cultural impact.

Review D – **Thinking, Fast and Slow**

Daniel Kahneman's *Thinking, Fast and Slow* provides a comprehensive examination of the cognitive processes that underpin human judgement and decision-making. Drawing on decades of psychological research, Kahneman distinguishes between two modes of thinking: a fast, intuitive system and a slower, more analytical one. Through a series of experiments and examples, the book reveals the extent to which cognitive biases influence everyday decisions. Although the work is widely regarded as intellectually

rigorous and insightful, its density and level of detail may present challenges for general readers. Despite this, it remains a seminal text in the field of behavioural economics, offering valuable insights for those willing to engage with its complexity.

(Adapted from reviews of the following works: Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari (The Guardian), Atomic Habits by James Clear (The New York Times), The Midnight Library by Matt Haig (BBC Culture), Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman (The Guardians))

Which review mentions...

- 101. the idea that commonly accepted beliefs may not be as factual as assumed
- 102. a distinction between different types of mental processes
- 103. an approach that prioritises systems rather than end goals
- 104. criticism that the work sacrifices depth for accessibility
- 105. a concept involving alternative versions of a person's life
- 106. a work that is dense and requires sustained concentration
- 107. the use of existing research presented in a more accessible way
- 108. an argument that challenges traditional views of societal structures
- 109. emotional impact as a key factor in the work's success
- 110. doubts about whether the author provides sufficient evidence

Your answers:

101.	102.	103.	104.	105.
106.	107.	108.	109.	110.

D. WRITING (50 points)

Part 1. (20 points)

The table below shows the percentage of people aged 18 and over in Australia who engaged in three different types of physical activities (walking, cycling, and gym workouts) in 2005, 2010, and 2015.

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

Year	Walking	Cycling	Gym workouts
2005	28%	15%	5%
2010	30%	19%	10%
2015	32%	21%	14%

Part 2: (30 points)

Some people believe that music primarily serves as a form of entertainment, while others argue that it plays a crucial role in shaping cultural identity.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Write an essay of about 300 words to answer the above question. Give reasons and include any relevant examples and explanations to support your answer.

----- **HẾT** -----

Họ và tên thí sinh: *Số báo danh:*

Lưu ý: - Thí sinh **không** được sử dụng tài liệu.

- Cán bộ coi thi **không** giải thích gì thêm.