

SECTION A: LISTENING (50 pts)

HƯỚNG DẪN PHẦN THI NGHE HIỂU

- Bài nghe gồm 4 phần; mỗi phần được nghe 2 lần, mỗi lần cách nhau 05 giây;
- Mở đầu và kết thúc bài nghe có tín hiệu nhạc;
- Mọi hướng dẫn cho thí sinh (bằng tiếng Anh) đã có trong bài nghe.

Part 1: For questions 1 – 5, listen to a radio interview with Olivia Glydon and Ron Partridge, who are hyperpolyglots and decide whether the statements are True (T) or False (F). Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 pts)

1. Olivia and Ron both say that their motivation for learning so many languages is their fascination with language systems.
2. When Ron was researching his books, he learned that hyperpolyglots are part of a relatively recent phenomenon.
3. When discussing reactions to their hyperpolyglotism, Ron agrees with Olivia that people cannot see the point of learning so many languages.
4. Olivia feels defensive about the choices she makes about spending so much time on the Internet.
5. Ron says that he doesn't often use the language of an aboriginal group in East Asia because it lacks vocabulary.

Part 2: For questions 6 – 10, listen to a recording about "How food you eat affects your brain" and answer the questions with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS for each answer. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 pts)

6. Why are omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids crucial for brain health?

7. What do amino acids comprise that impact mood and behavior?

8. How do the intricate compounds in food facilitate the release of mood-altering neurotransmitters?

9. What role do micronutrients play in brain health?

10. What is one of the primary indicators of nutrient deficiency, particularly in relation to declines in glucose levels in the brain?

Part 3: For questions 11 – 15, you will hear part of a radio programme about journalists who interview famous people and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D which fits best according to what you hear. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 pts)

11. In his introduction, the presenter says that celebrity interviewers _____.
A. attract more attention than they probably wish to
B. are pleased to be regarded as possessing great expertise
C. are given considerable prominence in most British papers
D. require different skills from other types of journalist
12. Lynn Barber says that her approach involves _____.
A. asking only questions that interviewees will have difficulty answering
B. making it clear that she does not believe some of what interviewees tell her
C. pointing out contradictions in what interviewees have said previously
D. making interviewees who she dislikes believe that she likes them
13. What does Zoe Heller say about the people she interviews?
A. She is glad that they do not have an opportunity to interview her.
B. Few of them appreciate how much effort she puts into her interviews.
C. She is less concerned about upsetting some of them than others.
D. They should not be surprised by what happens when she interviews them.

14. Angela Lambert dislikes it when interviewees _____.
 A. ask her to leave out minor matters
 B. think that she genuinely likes them a lot
 C. accuse them of insincerity
 D. are too nervous to speak openly
15. Ray Connolly implies that his approach may involve _____.
 A. making sure that interviewees stick to the order he has decided on
 B. trying to make interviewees sound more interesting than they really are
 C. rephrasing things interviewees say if they don't make sense
 D. excluding comments that interviewees may come to regret

Part 4: For questions 16 – 25, listen to a piece of news about AI and complete the following sentences. Write NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS taken from the recording for each blank. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (20 pts)

16. Concerns of _____ have escalated due to the rapid advancement of AI, notably chat GPT, and its capacity to autonomously teach and grow.
17. The United Nations Security Council initiates a dialogue on AI global impact, aiming to coordinate action to _____ of AI while ensuring humanity benefits from its tremendous potential.
18. Artificial intelligence, the _____ technology domain, is where the UK really wants to show its ability to compete with global tech giants.
19. According to Mr Cleverley, despite its promising advancements in fields like medical research and climate analysis, AI necessitates international cooperation to alleviate its _____.
20. Anthony Aguirre emphasizes the need for a governing body to address the urgent and _____ by advanced AI systems.
21. Chat GPT provided a list of AI risks, including cybersecurity vulnerabilities, weaponization, misinformation, data privacy, mass surveillance, bias and discrimination, potential unemployment leading to the ongoing _____.
22. Anthony Aguirre believes it's imperative to pause and step back from the _____ acceleration of development, allowing time for governance and regulation to catch up.
23. There are concerns about the potential use of AI to set false targets or to put satellites off targeting in the _____ discussion, prompting a reconsideration of defense strategies.
24. According to Anthony Aguirre, we must never _____ tasks, especially when it concerns incorporating AI into nuclear command and control systems.
25. International agreements should prioritize keeping human control in _____ and excluding AI from nuclear weapons.

SECTION B: LEXICO-GRAMMAR (30 pts)

Part 1. For questions 26-45, choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D to each of the following questions. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (20 pts)

26. My best friend said she found learning languages as easy as _____. Honestly, she had a gift for it.
 A. sliding off a branch
 B. falling off a log
 C. diving off a climb
 D. branching off a bough
27. Last month, Taylor Swift _____ the first leg of the Eras tour – a career-spanning, three-hour-plus stadium spectacular that's proved to be the year's single most significant pop culture phenomenon.
 A. cropped up
 B. set off
 C. crowded around
 D. wrapped up
28. After several injuries and failures, things have eventually _____ for Todd when he reached the final round of the tournament.
 A. looked up
 B. gone on
 C. taken up
 D. turned on
29. We carried on down the path, _____ of the notice warning of avalanche risk.
 A. careless
 B. carefree
 C. heedless
 D. blind

30. My laptop still worked, but I thought it needed a service. You know what they say: "A _____ in time saves nine" and all that!
 A. stitch B. repair C. spot D. correction
31. Thousands of people have been killed after heavy rains flooded parts of the country's northeast, a disaster _____ by the collapse of two dams in the coastal city of Derma.
 A. exaggerated B. exacerbated C. conciliated D. alleviated
32. She _____ for olives during her holiday in Greece.
 A. acquired a taste B. came of age C. gave a full D. planted a bug
33. I feel just awful for Mary. She's been eating her _____ out ever since she found out she was rejected by her top-choice school.
 A. head B. tongue C. heart D. mouth
34. My little nephew _____ his gaze to avoid making eye contact when his mother caught him eating cookies.
 A. averted B. reversed C. reverted D. converted
35. If we're going to bring this company back to its former glory, we'll need a marketing team that can do _____.
 A. justice B. business C. credit D. miracles
36. Because he was an _____ criminal, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.
 A. illegible B. impenetrable C. impermeable D. incorrigible
37. Stella says what she thinks without worrying about whether she might be ruffling anyone's _____.
 A. brain B. skin C. feathers D. nerves
38. Steve used to be easy to work with, but since his promotion he's begun to _____.
 A. turn up trumps throw B. throw in the towel
 C. throw him off balance D. throw his weight around
39. This paper will emphasize that phrenologists and anti-phrenologists adopted similar or even identical parameters for studying the brains of _____ persons.
 A. predominant B. eminent C. antiquated D. dubious
40. The needs of gifted children in schools have long been _____ neglected.
 A. dolefully B. idly C. woefully D. pathetically
41. His comments come as world leaders and scientists continue to _____ the climate change as activists demand less talk and more concrete action.
 A. shake off B. grapple with C. ride out D. ward off
42. I was only five minutes late, but the boss _____ me packing nonetheless.
 A. sent B. made C. let D. forced
43. His father is so depressed. He got served a(an) _____ notice today and he has two weeks to find a new place.
 A. repossession B. dismissal C. foreclosure D. eviction
44. _____, the catfish is prized for its state.
 A. With ugly look B. As looking ugly
 C. As it is looking ugly D. Ugly looking as it is
45. You can try reformatting your computer, but once you open that _____, you'll probably be working on it for days.
 A. apple of discord B. can of worms
 C. load of cobblers D. spot of bother

Part 2: For questions 46-55, write the correct form of each bracketed word in each sentence in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 pts)

46. The next government will play an energetic role in seeking multilateral nuclear _____. (ARM)
47. Upholders of the scientific faith shudder at the implications of having to mix it with such _____ subjective and impure elements. (REDEEM)
48. I question whether a spectacle so fantastic and impressive was ever dealt with, even in the pages of _____ fiction. (SCIENCE)
49. The bedroom window on the second floor is _____ placed. (SYMMETRY)

50. Kids have become _____ to violence. Someone's been shot, and kids are playing up and down the streets on their bikes, because they're used to seeing it and that's also what you see in a war zone. (SENSE)
51. Would you mind if I took one of the pictures as a _____? (KEEP)
52. Scholars have tried to make a case for _____, competitiveness, and selfishness as innate human trait. (ACQUIRE)
53. Often, _____ halting and fragmentary, the language of dreams can warp time, bringing together historical and contemporary figures. (ENIGMA)
54. What farmers did not realise is that the topsoil, when _____ of trees, is only considered arable for a short period of time. (NUDE)
55. The government's policy to soothe the anger among people was _____. It should have happened earlier. (CHRONOLOGY)

SECTION C: READING (60 pts)

Part 1. For questions 56-65, read the text below and decide which answer A, B, C or D best fits each gap. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 pts)

OXFORD

Oxford is a city with such mind-blowing reputation that many who come here to find themselves intimidated by the place and can't wait to leave, while others, taking to it like a (56) _____ to water, find themselves returning again and again. The college lawns provide a gorgeous (57) _____ for serious study, and in the right light, on a sunny winter's morning say, one feels as if one is (58) _____ on air, such is the sense of unreality. Oxford may like to pretend that it is at the intellectual (59) _____ of things, but in many ways it is no more than a sleepy (60) _____ where, to mix metaphors, transitory students, the (61) _____ of their generation, waiting in the wings, allowing their talents to (62) _____ before moving off into the industrial or political (63) _____. Much of this is a myth, of course. Hardship and hard work is very much part and parcel of student life. The (64) _____ get through the three years' hard grind by simply putting their shoulders to the (65) _____ before going on to fairly average jobs. Only for the tiny minority is Oxford the first step on the ladder to fame and fortune.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 56. A. fish | B. duck | C. boat | D. swimmer |
| 57. A. backdrop | B. curtain | C. scene | D. screen |
| 58. A. flying | B. gliding | C. floating | D. swimming |
| 59. A. wheel | B. engine | C. spoke | D. hub |
| 60. A. backwater | B. steam | C. tributary | D. watershed |
| 61. A. froth | B. cream | C. fat | D. caviar |
| 62. A. flourish | B. open | C. spread | D. float |
| 63. A. peak | B. abattoir | C. dead-end | D. fast-lane |
| 64. A. level-headed | B. hot-headed | C. hot-blooded | D. kind-hearted |
| 65. A. cart | B. wheel | C. engine | D. boat |

Part 2: For questions 66-75, read the text and fill each of the following numbered blanks with ONE suitable word. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (15 pts)

HUMAN NATURE

There can be no single, simple definition of human nature. Many inter-twining ideas in the history of philosophy have helped us to form our understanding of ourselves. Yet there can be no more important question than we think we are, (66) _____ it is who I think I am, and who you think you are. The twin questions of the character of humanity and the nature of the (67) _____ person are always linked.

Ideas of human nature radically affect the kind of society we live in and the kind we would like to live in. How far do we need society? Is it feasible to imagine living in splendid isolation? Linked to this is the question (68) _____ to whether we are all naturally only concerned for ourselves and only willing to co-operate with others when it is in our interests to do so. Are we, on the other hand, social beings by nature, eager to co-operate with others for the common (69) _____? Our political views may be

influenced by our answers. There is also the problem about whether our natural inclinations and desires have to be restrained in society or whether they find their proper expression in it. Does the beast in us need restraining, and is civilization the (70) _____ of curbing some of the strongest of human impulses?

Might it, (71) _____, be possible to change human nature by political means? Anyone who believes this will be (72) _____ to have greater faith in the effectiveness of political change, and may even be tempted by a doctrine of revolution. Those who consider human nature to be fixed, perhaps biologically, may (73) _____ be more cynical about the likely effects of political action, and perhaps be more ready to acquiesce in the existing state of affairs. Conservatism, as a political (74) _____, however, may also thrive when the central role of custom and tradition in human life is experienced. If they have (75) _____ us what we are, by striking at them, we may seem to be striking at ourselves.

Part 3. For questions 76-85, read the following passage and do the tasks that follow. (10 pts)

FAIR GAMES?

For seventeen days every four years the world is briefly arrested by the captivating, dizzying spectacle of athleticism, ambition, pride and celebration on display at the Summer Olympic Games. After the last weary spectators and competitors have returned home, however, host cities are often left awash in high debts and costly infrastructure maintenance. The staggering expenses involved in a successful Olympic bid are often assumed to be easily mitigated by tourist revenues and an increase in local employment, but more often than not host cities are short changed and their taxpayers for generations to come are left settling the debt.

Olympic extravaganzas begin with the application process. Bidding alone will set most cities back about \$20 million, and while officially bidding only takes two years (for cities that make the shortlist), most cities can expect to exhaust a decade working on their bid from the moment it is initiated to the announcement of voting results from International Olympic Committee members. Aside from the financial costs of the bid alone, the process ties up real estate in prized urban locations until the outcome is known. This can cost local economies millions of dollars of lost revenue from private developers who could have made use of the land, and can also mean that particular urban quarters lose their vitality due to the vacant lots. All of this can be for nothing if a bidding city does not appease the whims of IOC members – private connections and opinions on government conduct often hold sway (Chicago's 2012 bid is thought to have been undercut by tensions over U.S. foreign policy).

Bidding costs do not compare, however, to the exorbitant bills that come with hosting the Olympic Games themselves. As is typical with large-scale, one-off projects, budgeting for the Olympics is a notoriously formidable task. Los Angelinos have only recently finished paying off their budget-breaking 1984 Olympics; Montreal is still in debt for its 1976 Games (to add insult to injury, Canada is the only host country to have failed to win a single gold medal during its own Olympics). The tradition of runaway expenses has persisted in recent years. London Olympics managers have admitted that their 2012 costs may increase ten times over their initial projections, leaving tax payers 20 billion pounds in the red.

Hosting the Olympics is often understood to be an excellent way to update a city's sporting infrastructure. The extensive demands of Olympic sports include aquatic complexes, equestrian circuits, shooting ranges, beach volleyball courts, and, of course, an 80,000 seat athletic stadium. Yet these demands are typically only necessary to accommodate a brief influx of athletes from around the world. Despite the enthusiasm many populations initially have for the development of world-class sporting complexes in their home towns, these complexes typically fall into disuse after the Olympic fervour has waned. Even Australia, home to one of the world's most sportive populations, has left its taxpayers footing a \$32 million-a-year bill for the maintenance of vacant facilities.

Another major concern is that when civic infrastructure developments are undertaken in preparation for hosting the Olympics, these benefits accrue to a single metropolitan centre (with the exception of some outlying areas that may get some revamped sports facilities). In countries with an expansive land mass, this means vast swathes of the population miss out entirely. Furthermore, since the International Olympic Committee favours prosperous "global" centres (the United Kingdom was told, after three failed bids from its provincial cities, that only London stood any real chance at winning), the improvement of public transport, roads and communication links tends to concentrate in places already well-equipped with world-class infrastructures. Perpetually by-passing minor cities creates a cycle of

disenfranchisement: these cities never get an injection of capital, they fail to become first-rate candidates, and they are constantly passed over in favour of more secure choices.

Finally, there is no guarantee that an Olympics will be a popular success. The “feel good” factor that most proponents of Olympic bids extol (and that was no doubt driving the 90 to 100 per cent approval rates of Parisians and Londoners for their cities’ respective 2012 bids) can be an elusive phenomenon, and one that is tied to that nation’s standing on the medal tables. This ephemeral thrill cannot compare to the years of disruptive construction projects and security fears that go into preparing for an Olympic Games, nor the decades of debt repayment that follow (Greece’s preparation for Athens 2004 famously deterred tourists from visiting the country due to widespread unease about congestion and disruption).

There are feasible alternatives to the bloat, extravagance and wasteful spending that comes with a modern Olympic Games. One option is to designate a permanent host city that would be re-designed or built from scratch especially for the task. Another is to extend the duration of the Olympics so that it becomes a festival of several months. Local businesses would enjoy the extra spending and congestion would ease substantially as competitors and spectators come and go according to their specific interests. Neither the “Olympic City” nor the extended length options really get to the heart of the issue, however. Stripping away ritual and decorum in favour of concentrating on athletic rivalry would be preferable.

Failing that, the Olympics could simply be scrapped altogether. International competition could still be maintained through world championships in each discipline. Most of these events are already held on non-Olympic years anyway – the International Association of Athletics Federations, for example, has run a biennial World Athletics Championship since 1983 after members decided that using the Olympics for their championship was no longer sufficient. Events of this nature keep world-class competition alive without requiring Olympic-sized expenses.

Questions 76-80

Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A–K, below.

Write the correct letter, A–K, in boxes 76–80 on your answer sheet.

- 76. Bids to become a host city
- 77. Personal relationships and political tensions
- 78. Cost estimates for the Olympic Games
- 79. Purpose-built sporting venues
- 80. Urban developments associated with the Olympics

- A. often help smaller cities to develop basic infrastructure.
- B. tend to occur in areas where they are least needed.
- C. require profitable companies to be put out of business.
- D. are often never used again once the Games are over.
- E. can take up to ten years to complete.
- F. also satisfy needs of local citizens for first-rate sports facilities.
- G. is usually only successful when it is from a capital city.
- H. are closely related to how people feel emotionally about the Olympics.
- I. are known for being very inaccurate.
- J. often underlie the decisions of International Olympic Committee members.
- K. are holding back efforts to reform the Olympics

Questions 81-85

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading Passage?

Write: TRUE (T) if the statement agrees with the information in the passage
FALSE (F) if the statement contradicts the information in the passage
NOT GIVEN (NG) if there is no information on this in the passage

- 81. Residents of host cities have little use for the full range of Olympic facilities.
- 82. Australians have still not paid for the construction of Olympic sports facilities.
- 83. People far beyond the host city can expect to benefit from improved infrastructure.
- 84. When a city makes an Olympic bid, a majority of its citizens usually want it to win.
- 85. Whether or not people enjoy hosting the Olympics in their city depends on how athletes from their country perform in Olympic events.

Part 4: For questions 86-95, read the passage and choose the answer A, B, C or D which fits best according to the text. (10 pts)

In much-vaunted rhetoric, the eleventh of September 2001 has gone down in history books as "the day the world changed forever". This was seen as a positive change, with the majority of nations supporting a **clamp-down** on terrorism on an international basis, and calling for more co-operation between intelligence agencies and police forces.

Unfortunately, a more sinister force was unleashed, and democratic countries that formerly valued the freedom of the individual suddenly became the targets of criticism for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as Amnesty International and civil liberties campaigners like Statewatch, an independent group which monitors threats to privacy and civil liberties in the European Union.

In some countries, civil liberties had already been compromised. Many Europeans had been living with closed circuit television cameras in public places for many years, for example, and accepted their existence as a necessary evil which would reduce the risk of street crimes, thus assuring the safety of the majority. However, after the September 11th attacks, governments hastily dusted off and revived ancient statutes or drafted sweeping new acts which were aimed at giving themselves and the police considerably more powers with a view to cracking down on terrorists, wherever they were to be found.

In the decade prior to 2011, government policies were put in place which aimed to provide citizens with access to information. People were empowered to check their personal data to ensure its accuracy wherever the data was held (i.e.-in banks, local government offices, etc.). Now, though, **draconian** measures were suddenly proposed, which included the storing of personal communications, including, all e-mails and phone calls, for at least one year, with all telecommunications firms having to keep records of the names and addresses of their clients as well as the numbers and addresses of calls and e-mails sent by them. Governments argued, quite convincingly, that such measures were necessary to combat terrorism, and other benefits were also played up, such as improved ability to track child abductors. While balking at the idea of telephone-tapping and uncontrolled information-swapping among government agencies, the public, by and large, have been receptive to other such measures, but they may live to regret their compliance.

An independent study of 50 countries published in 2002 criticised Britain, in particular, over a series of measures which, its authors say, have undermined civil liberties, especially since the September 11th attacks. They accuse the government of having placed substantial limitations on numerous rights, including freedom of assembly, privacy, freedom of movement, the right to silence and freedom of speech. The implementation of tough new measures severely limiting the number of immigrants accepted by Western countries has also raised concerns among civil rights groups, who point out that laws aimed at reducing global terrorism have penalised many legitimate refugees fleeing war-torn countries or repressive regimes. Furthermore, these measures have had far-reaching effects. Repressive regimes around the world have seized upon the precedent being set by the West to legitimise their own previously questionable human rights practices, with only NGOs like Amnesty International left to cry foul.

Individuals have unwittingly contributed to the erosion of their own personal freedom by adopting new technologies that offer more convenience and security (e.g. - extensive use of credit cards, smart cards, customer loyalty cards, etc.), while compromising their freedom. It is easier to trace a person's movements when such cards are used. Willingness to give up privacy in exchange for security will remain a strong force, and some companies have jumped on the bandwagon, offering "personal location" devices aimed at parents who fear for their children's safety. Whilst this may seem reasonable, consider the following: at what age does a rebellious teenager have the right to remove such a tracking chip?

It seems a strange concept that, in the twenty-first century, the very peoples who have fought for their freedom of expression and movement and freedom of the press are now allowing their governments to have access to personal and confidential information which would have been unthinkable a decade ago. For centuries like Britain to be found to have acted unlawfully by discriminating against foreign nationals would also have been unthinkable once, given Britain's strong legislation against racial discrimination and the existence of a commission whose sole purpose is to investigate charges of such acts. There used to be

a distinction between countries which had poor records of human rights abuses and more liberal countries, but the dividing line has become a trifle blurred.

George Orwell predicted that the age of surveillance would be 1984; he was 17 years out in his calculations, but Orwell would have been horrified to discover that convenience and security have become more important to the majority than basic human rights.

86. As used in the first paragraph, the word **clamp-down** is closest in meaning to _____.
A. abolition B. demolition C. prevention D. devolution
87. In the second paragraph, the writer implies that _____.
A. certain NGOs are having to resort to undemocratic action.
B. state repression is much more commonplace in countries that used to guard against it.
C. civil liberties activists are endangering privacy.
D. certain European Union countries lack respect for individual freedoms.
88. The writer indicates that before September 2001 _____.
A. terrorism wasn't considered a threat in countries that now act against it.
B. the police in some countries didn't have enough resources to fight terrorism.
C. the police in some countries had been demanding more powers.
D. some countries had dispensed with laws that had given the police more powers.
89. As used in the fourth paragraph, the word **draconian** is closest in meaning to _____.
A. vehement B. severe C. transparent D. outrageous
90. What does the writer feel about government attitudes to the individual in the 1990s?
A. There was a move towards building public confidence with regard to the subject of personal information.
B. No careful thought had been given to using personal communications to combat crime.
C. Information about phone calls and e-mails wasn't kept long enough.
D. Government policies unwittingly encouraged child abductions.
91. What is the general attitude of citizens to the question of the right to privacy?
A. People see this as their inalienable right.
B. They are prepared to surrender their liberty to some extent.
C. People have been placated with jargon about reducing crime.
D. People are not convinced that their rights are under threat.
92. What point is made about tracing people's movements or activities through financial transactions?
A. It makes people feel more secure.
B. People have willingly exchanged privacy for convenience.
C. It could help parents who fear for their children's safety.
D. People who rely on "plastic" money facilitate such surveillance.
93. What does the writer suggest about some of the new legislation in the seventh paragraph?
A. Most people in the countries concerned find it unacceptable.
B. People had to struggle to achieve this.
C. It is contrary to the spirit of other existing legislation.
D. It is mainly relevant to foreigners.
94. What point does the writer make about George Orwell and his predictions?
A. Orwell would have been dismayed at the reasons underlying the current situation.
B. If he were alive, he would say that he had been right.
C. The prediction was fairly inaccurate.
D. Orwell would have been horrified by the importance of security.
95. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?
A. Privacy and civil liberties B. Freedom and security
C. Terrorism and surveillance D. Terrorism and human rights

Part 5: For questions 96 – 105, read the magazine article about mountain climbing and choose from the sections of the article (A–G). Some of the choices may be required more than once. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (15pts)

In which section are the following mentioned?

Your answers:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| - the established route up the mountain being crowded. | 96. ___ |
| - the uplifting nature of the place. | 97. ___ |
| - the climbers being unable to find their way at the base of the mountain. | 98. ___ |
| - a particular mountaineering technique being pioneered on a new route. | 99. ___ |
| - reaching the summit more quickly than anticipated. | 100. ___ |
| - the irrational behaviour of the writer's colleague. | 101. ___ |
| - the ill effects of climbing at height being greater in that particular area. | 102. ___ |
| - the mistaken assumption that they had reached the top. | 103. ___ |
| - the writer beginning to consider climbing all seven mountains. | 104. ___ |
| - the journey to the region having a dual purpose. | 105. ___ |

SEVEN UP

Mountaineer Doug Scott shares with his readers the mystical experience of conquering the highest peak on each continent: the Seven Summits.

My quest to climb the Seven Summits came late in life. I will take them in the order of my climbing them.

A. Mt. Everest, Asia (8,848m)

We were in a snow cave 91m below the summit when my climbing partner, Dougal Haston, began a conversation with Dave Clark, our Equipment Officer, about the relative merits of various sleeping bags. I thought this was strange, as only Dougal and I were present. Putting this down to oxygen deprivation, I then found myself talking to my feet. Already the cold was getting into the balls of my feet and I recalled other climbers who had lost fingers and toes from frostbite. It wasn't survival that was worrying us so much as the quality of our survival.

Over the next two days I relived our time spent on the summit ridge. I realised that I couldn't have been there with a better man than Dougal Haston. He inspired great confidence in me and by now I was climbing with a calm presentiment that somehow or other it was all going to work out. I realised I had to get a better rhythm going in order to reach the summit - which is what I did.

B. Mt. McKinley, North America (6,194m)

This mountain is regarded as the most treacherous in the world. In April 1976 Dougal and I arrived at the Kahiltna Glacier and spent four days humping equipment and food up to the base. Only after the first day of climbing did we realise the enormity of our undertaking. On the lower face we followed a route put up in 1967, but at half height we pursued a new route, as planned, heading directly for the upper snow basin and the summit. We decided to climb 'alpine style', with our equipment and food on our backs. It would be the first time a major new route had been climbed here in such a way.

We climbed up the compressed snow of an avalanche scar to camp under a rocky cliff and by the third day my sleeping bag was sodden. We spent the third night on a windswept ridge; by now we were both suffering. Mt. McKinley, because the air pressure in the polar regions is lower, has an impact on the body out of all proportion to its altitude. It seemed to us that we were up at around 7,000m, instead of 6,100m. We packed our bags and finally staggered onto the summit and down the other side, triumphant.

C. Kilimanjaro, Africa (5,895m)

In September 1976, Paul Braithwaite and I flew to Nairobi with the intention of climbing Mt. Kenya. It was through the unexpected offer of a free ride to the Tanzanian side of Kilimanjaro that we came to climb Africa's highest mountain.

On our approach we got ourselves lost in the dense jungles of the lower slopes. Our situation became serious because water is scarce. On the second day we came across luminous arrows painted on trees and a trail of rubbish which brought us to a rock pool. Never before had I been so pleased to find rubbish on a mountain.

We attempted a direct start to the breach wall, which is a 305m-high icicle. After a deluge of falling rock and ice we prudently retired and opted instead for the Umbwe route to gain the surrealistic summit.

D. Aconcagua, South America (6,960m)

The original and now standard route up Aconcagua is little more than a walk. In January 1992, I arrived with my wife, Sharu, at Punta del Inca and was pleasantly surprised to meet fellow mountaineer and guide, Phil Erscheler. He was taking a party up the mountain via the Polish Glacier, away from the busy standard route, and suggested that we go with them.

After three days of sitting out bad weather, we left base camp. The Polish Glacier stretching up to the summit had been swept by vicious winds and glistened with pure ice. With a time limit to get back to Buenos Aires for our flight, we decided to miss out on the glacier. Instead we went across the north ridges towards the standard route and joined the large number of people wandering along the path. The wind was strong as we walked the last few metres to the summit and just before it got dark we camped outside the refuge.

Back at base camp we met eight members of the Jakarta Mountaineering Club. They were planning to climb the Seven Summits and felt, when they learnt that I had already climbed four, that I should do the same. This was the first time I had seriously thought about such goal-orientation - something I had previously tried to avoid.

E. Vinson Massif, Antarctica (4,897m)

When I learnt that climbing Vinson Massif was just a matter of guiding enough people in order to finance the cost of getting there, attempting all of the Seven Summits became a reality. Our team left Britain towards the end of November 1992 and travelled the thousands of kilometres to the South Pole. At this time of the year the sun is always well above the horizon, throughout the day and 'night', and when the wind stops blowing it is utterly quiet. As in other polar regions, in the keen, clean air, there is such an invigorating atmosphere that the spirits are raised just by being there. On December 7 we left camp and headed off towards the summit. Against expectations, with winds gusting at around 80 kms per hour and temperatures below minus 50°C, we all got to the top within 8 hours. Our elation was somewhat tempered by visibility being down to just a few metres in the storm.

F. Elbrus, Europe (5,633m)

Our team assembled in St Petersburg during the early summer of 1994. On our arrival at the settlement of Terskol, beneath Elbrus, a commission was demanded from our guide for bringing foreigners into the valley, though this was later waived.

After a few days' acclimatising, the group set off up Elbrus by cableway to 3,900m. From there we walked to the refuge at 4,200m. Two days later, the wind buffeted us as we crossed open slopes, some of them glassy ice. By mid-afternoon we reached what we thought was the summit. But we found there was another kilometre-long ridge to the actual summit. As night fell, we returned to the refuge and the next day descended this, fortunately extinct, volcano.

G. Carstensz Pyramid, Australasia (4,883m)

On our expedition to Carstensz we hoped not only to establish a new route but to spend as much time as possible with the aboriginal Dani people. The largest gold mine in the world is cutting into the mountain, regarded as sacred by the local tribespeople.

We had been warned that we might be taken hostage or even killed by bandits but, undeterred, we left our hut by mid-morning and walked down winding lanes towards the jungle. On May 12 we started climbing. The weather improved and two of the team hared ahead. We were slower, since Sharu was filming. Climbing in rock shoes, we reached the summit by 11 am.

I was given a standing ovation on this, my seventh summit. Mission accomplished!

SECTION D: WRITING (60 pts)

Part 1. Read the following extract and use your own words to summarise it. Your summary should be between 100 and 120 words long. (15 pts)

Bullying is of all times, but a more recent phenomenon is cyberbullying in which the bully uses email, text messages, twitter and other social media or online forums to hurt the victim. It is no surprise that celebrities who are constantly in the public eye are cyberbullied relentlessly. Celebrities are criticised literally for every move they make. A lot of the comments are about looks. Celebrities need to have a thick skin to deal with this constant stream of criticism. Some seem to do fine though. This may have to do with past experiences as surprisingly many celebrities were the victim of bullying when they

were young. Bullying is a serious problem to such an extent that many children and teenagers are afraid to go to school. The main reasons for becoming a victim of bullying are appearance and social status. Bullies attack their victims physically and psychologically. Bullying can have terrible effects on its victims. Not only schoolwork but also health may suffer. Research suggests that victims may suffer from mental health problems later in life such as depression, low self-esteem and anxiety. This doesn't have to be the case though. Many famous people were bullied as a child and despite this experience have become very successful.

We cited appearance as a major reason for being bullied. Ironically, the exact reason for being bullied has made some celebrities successful. Supermodel Tyra Banks, for example, was made fun of for being so thin. This exact thin physique helped her to have a very successful career as a model. Athlete Michael Phelps was bullied in school for his long arms. Later he won several medals at the Olympic Games and those long arms will certainly not have been at his disadvantage.

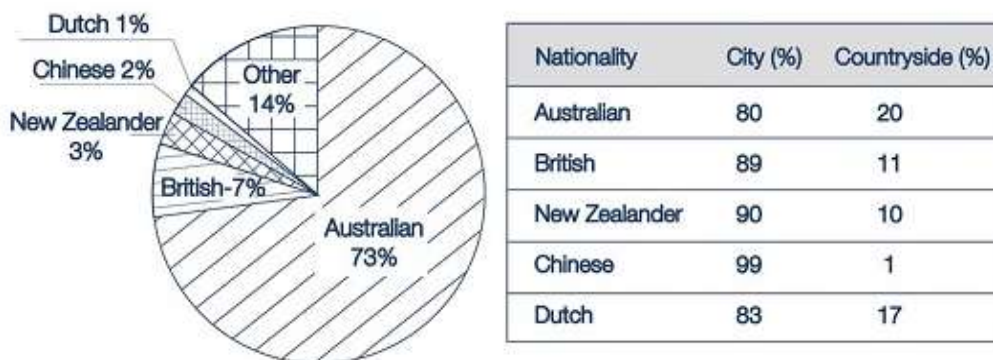
Batman actor Christian Bale used to be beaten up a lot when he was a kid. He feels that it has made him stronger. It was for him a lesson for life. Christian didn't hit back. Violence often makes things worse as you don't know what the bully's response will be. Using violence could in the end have brought him more trouble. Holding the anger cannot be easy but perhaps humor can be thrown in to fend the bully off. Comic actor Chris Rock for example claims he developed his quick wit as a response to being bullied.

Actor and singer Selena Gomez was bullied all the way through elementary and middle school. She said that it was her energy and focus that made her a target. Ultimately, the experience has made her a stronger person. A similar story we hear from colleague singer Rihanna. She also got bullied in school but now she is even grateful as the teasing has made her tough. Extravagant pop star Lady Gaga has gone even further as she actively uses her experience of being bullied to reach out to her fans and this way tries to give them hope. Singer and actor Brittany Snow also used her negative experience for something positive by setting up a non-profit organization that seeks to put an end to bullying.

Part 2.

The table and pie chart give information about the population in Australia according to different nationalities and areas.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. You should write about 150 words. (15 pts)



Part 3.

The tendency of news reports in the media to focus more on problems and emergencies than on positive developments is harmful to individuals and the society as a whole.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge and experience. Your essay should be about 300-350 words. (30 pts)

the end