

**TRƯỜNG THPT CHUYÊN
LÊ THÁNH TÔNG**



**KỲ THI HỌC SINH GIỎI CÁC TRƯỜNG
THPT CHUYÊN KHU VỰC DUYÊN HẢI
VÀ ĐỒNG BẮNG BẮC BỘ, NĂM 2023
ĐỀ THI MÔN: TIẾNG ANH 11**

Thời gian: 180 phút (không kể thời gian giao đề)

ĐỀ ĐỀ XUẤT

SECTION A: LISTENING (50 points)

Part 1: *For questions 1 – 5, listen to an interview with Norma Powell, who is a financial advisor 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)*

1. Young people are tempted to live beyond their means because _____
 - A. they consider they have a right to use credit cards and store cards.
 - B. they may be unaware of the extent of the debts they incur.
 - C. they may be unable to pay cash for consumer goods.
 - D. they have become more materialistic as a result of using credit cards.
2. Norma believes the main reason young people get into debt is due to _____
 - A. the large numbers of credit cards available to them.
 - B. the overdrafts they create at university.
 - C. the fact that they can't find a job.
 - D. the lack of financial advice from parents.
3. She thinks that if parents have a responsible attitude to money, _____
 - A. their children will be more likely to follow their advice.
 - B. they will be able to demonstrate the dangers of getting into debt.
 - C. their children will follow their advice but not their example.
 - D. they will be able to build up some savings for their children.
4. A fixed amount of pocket money _____
 - A. forces a child to save money.
 - B. teaches a child to budget.

C. makes a child feel independent.

D. gives a child a saving strategy.

5. Teenagers sometimes find it difficult to save because _____

A. they want to buy clothes all the time.

B. they don't want to listen to their parents.

C. they are influenced by friends and advertising.

D. they have lost sight of what is important in life.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Part 2: For questions 6 – 10, listen to a news bulletin about climate change and decide whether the statements are True (T) or False (F). Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 pts)

6. According to some meteorologists, those living in 2070 are likely to witness an unprecedented phenomenon in which summer could last for half a year as a result of climate change.

7. In Korea, shorter winters with lower temperatures have resulted in inevitable changes in the national agriculture industry.

8. Despite global warming, those who work in agriculture and fishery industries attempt to take an advantage of what climate change has to offer.

9. With yearly temperatures increasing by nearly 2 degrees Celsius over the past century, the number of patients with symptoms caused by heatwaves in July has risen threefold.

10. The main reason for longer summers in the country is the rise in global greenhouse gas emissions.

Your answers:

6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
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Part 3: For questions 11 – 15, listen to a piece of news about rainforests and answer the questions. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS taken from the recording for each answer. (10 pts)

11. For over the past four decades, what have human beings done to tropical forest land for financial gain?

12. Name **TWO** ailments that can be treated using rosy periwinkle, a rainforest plant found only in Madagascar.

13. Which regional area has witnessed more than three-quarters of the population using herbal medicine in terms of health care?

14. In addition to severe droughts, what has been the consequence of the increase in carbon dioxide levels and decrease in rainforest acreage?

15. How are rainforests' direct influences on the condition of the world's atmosphere viewed despite their great importance?

Your answers:

11.	12.
13.	14.
15.	

Part 4: For questions 16 – 25, listen to a talk about the 73rd United Nations General Assembly and complete the following sentences. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS taken from the recording for each blank. (20 pts)**

THE 73rd UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 5 KEY ISSUES

1. China's internment camps

- Beijing authorities stand accused of imprisoning minority Uyghur Muslims in secret internment camps to (16) _____ them
- Government of China (17) _____ the accusation, notwithstanding incontrovertible (18) _____ presented by those released from the camps.

2. Rohingya Crisis

- At least 10,000 people have their lives claimed as a result of Myanmar's (19) _____ against the ethnic and religious minority.
- The UN Human Rights council accuses the nation of (20) _____ against the Rohingya.

3. South Sudan's civil war

- The civil war has taken its toll and resulted in Africa's (21) _____, in which more than 2 million people are forced to flee the country.
- (22) _____ have been prohibited from travelling.

4. Yemen

- The worst humanitarian crisis in the world was created as a civil conflict turned into an (23) _____ between regional archrivals Iran and Saudi Arabia.

5. The United States' zero tolerance policy

- America's policy has led immigrants and (24) _____ to be taken into custody.
- The United Nations Human Rights Council considers this policy (25) _____ as it has caused separation and detention of the families.

Your answers:

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

SECTION B: LEXICO-GRAMMAR (30 points)

Part 1. For question 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. The image of peace and prosperity appearing on TV is rather _____ and does not reflect the actual situation of the city.

A. factious B. factitive C. factive D. factional

27. It came as a shock to Dan to find out that the police officer killed in the _____ of duty yesterday was his dad.

A. hours B. line C. call D. strike

28. These days, schools no longer _____ girls away from STEM subjects thanks to the propagation of gender equality.

A. direct B. drive C. steer D. guide

29. A career in marketing has always been what she desires, so she just _____ herself in her work.

A. immersed B. submerged C. engulfed D. dipped

30. Scout decided that her brother Jem needed some time to _____ after a terrible night so she tried to keep some distance from him.

A. cry off B. drill down C. come off D. simmer down

31. The two generals, although _____ cooperating to attack the enemy, actually detest each other.

A. showily B. ostensibly C. audaciously D. benignly

32. There is a very strong movement in my country now against _____ sports like hunting or shooting even though they are parts of national traditions.

A. lethal B. death C. blood D. red

33. James kept trying to _____ his duties, but his manager told him if he didn't start taking responsibility for his work he would have to leave the company.

A. beaver away B. weasel out of C. chicken out of D. clam up

34. The Government intends to introduce a new Bill on taxation, _____.

A. whose provisions will be the work of experts on both sides of the House will be study

B. of which the study of its provisions will be the work of experts on both sides of the House

C. the work of experts on both sides of the House will be the study of its provisions

D. the study of whose provisions will be the work of experts on both sides of the House

35. You _____ then; otherwise, the policeman wouldn't have stopped you.

- A.** could have been speeding **B.** must have been speeding
C. might have been speeding **D.** ought to have been speeding

36. When will you realise that it was your self-righteous and _____ attitude that prevented you from learning better ideas from other people?

- A.** fallow **B.** ghoulish **C.** bigoted **D.** conniving

37. If there happened to be both rich and poor people, as there happen to be both black and white ones, then the advantages of the _____ might well spread in time to the hard-up.

- A.** well-heeled **B.** big-hearted **C.** open-handed **D.** tight-fisted

38. I had no idea they were planning to organize a party for my birthday, they must have kept it _____.

- A.** in deep water **B.** in a lip lock **C.** among the flowers **D.** under the rose

39. The small-scale demonstration later escalated into a _____ battle with the police, involving more than 800 protesters and causing serious traffic congestion across the city.

- A.** pitched **B.** racked **C.** heaped **D.** scrap

40. A new generation of performers, _____ those who by now had become a household name, honed their skills before following the same path onto television.

- A.** no less talented than **B.** along with talented as
C. together with talented as **D.** having been more talented than

41. With a record of 22000 flying hours, Callaghan proved to be an _____ and shrewd pilot for these storms.

- A.** inimitable **B.** imperturbable **C.** impermeable **D.** unshakeable

42. My daughter is a very confident girl and likes to express herself in public, unlike her brother, who is a _____.

- A.** bowl of cherry **B.** top banana **C.** ripe plum **D.** shrinking violet

43. As a public figure, whose life and behavior are the focus of intense public interest, I have gradually become _____ to criticism and scrutiny.

- A. impermeable B. impertinent C. impervious D. imperious

44. The doctor insisted that his patient _____.

- A. did not work too hard for three months B. to take some vacation for three months
C. take it easy inside of three months D. takes it easy inside of three months

45. My father is getting old and forgetful. _____, he is experienced and helpful.

- A. Be that as it may B. Regardless C. Lest D. Consequently

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, write the correct form each bracketed word in each sentence in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 pts)

46. Without that _____ dress, I would have never noticed you in the middle of hundreds of people going to the festival. (EYE)

47. Many hospitals are beginning to limit _____ stays during the pandemic to minimize risk of spreading COVID-19. (PATIENT)

48. My whole class was caught _____ by the teacher's spot check and many of us were punished for bringing phones to school. (FOOT)

49. While _____ service does not generate revenue for a company, it has a role to play in retaining old customers post the sale of a product and attracting more customers. (SALE)

50. The actor _____ the question by denying his relationship with the female internet celebrity. (STEP)

51. Many people might be _____ during the incubation period so we can never know who really doesn't carry the virus. (SYMPTOM)

52. My team is submerged in deadlines so we do not have the _____ to take on new projects at the moment. (BAND)

53. Oral disease, especially dental carries, is complicated and _____, and it often begins to develop during infancy. **(FACTOR)**
54. _____ organizational structures refer to companies with too many managers, which mean too many presidents, vice presidents and other mid- level managers between the president and the junior worker. **(HEAVY)**
55. Looking at her _____ clothes, you might be surprised to know that Mary has moved to the city for over 20 years. **(COUNTRY)**

Your answers:

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

SECTION C: READING (60 points)

Part 1: You are going to read about investigations into the origins of the universe. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs A - H the one which fits each gap (56 - 62). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. (7 points)

THE ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSE

A powerful conviction for me is the idea that as we converge on the moment of creation, the constituents and laws of the universe become ever simpler. A useful analogy here is life itself, or, more simply, a single human being. Each of us is a vastly complex entity, assembled from many different tissues and capable of countless behaviours and thoughts.

56.	
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57.	
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Cosmology is showing us that this complexity flowed from a deep simplicity as matter metamorphosed through a series of phase transitions. Travel back in time through those phase transitions, and we see an ever-greater simplicity and symmetry, with the fusion of the fundamental forces of nature and the transformation of particles to ever-more fundamental components.

58.	
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Go back further still. What was there before the big bang? What was there before time began? Facing this question challenges our faith in the power of science to find explanations of nature. The existence of a singularity — in this case the given, unique state from which the universe emerged — is anathema to science, because it is beyond explanation.

59.	
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Cosmologists have long struggled to avoid this bad dream by seeking explanations of the universe that avoid the necessity of a beginning. Einstein, remember, refused to believe the implication of his own equations — that the universe is expanding and therefore must have had a beginning — and invented the cosmological constant to avoid it. Only when Einstein saw Hubble's observations of an expanding universe could he bring himself to believe his equations.

60.	
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Stephen Hawking and J B Hartle tried to resolve the challenge differently, by arguing the singularity out of existence. Flowing from an attempt at a theory of quantum gravity, they agreed that time is finite, but without a beginning. Think of the surface of a sphere. The surface is finite, but it has no beginning or end — you can trace your finger over it continuously, perhaps finishing up where you began. Suppose the universe is a sphere of space time. Travel around the surface, and again you may finish up where you started both in space and time.

We simply do not know yet whether there was a beginning of the universe, and so the origin of space-time remains in terra incognita. No question is more fundamental, whether cast in scientific or theological terms. My conviction is that science will continue to move ever closer to the moment of creation, facilitated by the ever-greater simplicity we find there. Some physicists argue that matter is ultimately reducible to pointlike objects with certain intrinsic properties.

61.	
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To an engineer, the difference between nothing and practically nothing might be close enough. To a scientist, such a difference, however miniscule, would be everything. We might find ourselves experiencing Jarrow's bad dream, facing a final question: Why? "Why questions are not amenable to scientific inquiry and will always reside within philosophy and theology, which may provide solace if not material explication.

62.	
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The list of cosmic coincidences required for our existence in the universe is long, moving Stephen Hawking to remark that, "the odds against a universe like ours emerging out of something like the big bang are enormous." Princeton physicist Freeman Dyson went further, and said: "The more I examine the universe and the details of its architecture, the more evidence I find that the universe in some sense must have known we were coming." This concatenation of coincidences required for our presence in this universe has been termed the anthropic principle. In fact, it is merely a statement of the, obvious: Had things been different, we would not exist.

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- A. This, of course, requires time travel, in violation of Mach's principle. But the world of quantum mechanics, with its uncertainty principle, is an alien place in which otherworldly things can happen. It is so foreign a place that it may even be beyond human understanding.
- B. But what if the universe we see were the only one possible, the product of a singular initial state shaped by singular laws of nature? It is clear that the minutest variation in the value of a series of fundamental properties of the universe would have resulted in no universe at all, or at least a very alien universe. For instance, if the strong nuclear force had been slightly weaker, the universe would have been composed of hydrogen only. An expansion more rapid by one part in a million would have excluded the formation of stars and planets.
- C. Trace that person back through his or her life, back beyond birth to the moment of fertilisation of a single ovum by a single sperm. The individual becomes ever simpler, ultimately encapsulated as information encoded in DNA. The development that gradually transforms a DNA code into a mature individual is an unfolding, a complexification, as the information in the DNA is translated and manifested through many stages of life. So, I believe, it is with the universe. We can see how very complex the universe is now, and we are part of that complexity.
- D. Others argue that fundamental particles are extraordinarily tiny strings that vibrate to produce their properties. Either way, it is possible to envisage creation of the universe from almost nothing — not nothing, but practically nothing. Almost creation *ex nihilo*, but not quite. That would be a great intellectual achievement, but it may still leave us with a limit to how far scientific inquiry can go, finishing with a description of the singularity, but not an explanation of it.
- E. For many proponents of the steady state theory, one of its attractions was its provision that the universe had no beginning and no end, and therefore required no explanation of what existed before $t = 0$. It was known as the perfect cosmological principle.
- F. There can be no answer to why such a state existed. Is this, then, where scientific explanation breaks down and God takes over, the artificer of that singularity, that initial

simplicity? The astrophysicist Robert Jastrow described such a prospect as the scientist's nightmare: "He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

G. Various COBE team members and other cosmologists were on TV, radio talk shows, and in newspapers for several days. The publicity and tremendous public interest provided a unique opportunity to discuss science with a very large audience and to promote the power of human endeavour in pursuing the mysteries of nature.

H. Go back further and we reach a point when the universe was nearly an infinitely tiny, infinitely dense concentration of energy. This increasing simplicity and symmetry of the universe as we near the point of creation gives me hope that we can understand the universe using the powers of reason and philosophy. The universe would then be comprehensible, as Einstein had yearned

Your answers:

56.	57.	58.	59.	60.	61.	62
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Part 2. For questions 63-72, fill each of the following numbered blanks with ONE suitable word. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (15 points)

People who experience (63) _____ bad dreams in middle age may experience a faster rate of cognitive decline and be at higher risk of dementia as they get older, data suggests. If confirmed, the research could eventually (64) _____ to new ways of screening for dementia and intervention to slow the rate of decline.

Most people experience bad dreams from time to time, but approximately 5% of adults experience (65) _____ – dreams distressing enough to wake them up – at least once a week. Stress, anxiety, and sleep (66) _____ are all potential triggers, but previous research in people with Parkinson's disease has also linked frequent distressing dreams (67) _____ faster rates of cognitive decline, and an increased risk of developing dementia in the future.

To investigate (68) _____ the same might be true of healthy adults, Dr. Abidemi Otaiku at the University of Birmingham turned to data from three previous studies that have examined people's sleep quality and then followed them over many years, assessing their brain health as well as other outcomes. This (69) _____ more than 600 middle-aged adults (aged 35 to 64), and 2,600 people aged 79 and older.

Their data was analysed using statistical software to find out whether those who experienced a higher (70) _____ of distressing dreams were more likely to go on to experience cognitive decline and be diagnosed with dementia.

The research, published in eClinicalMedicine, found that middle-aged people who experienced bad dreams at least once a week were four times more (71) _____ to experience cognitive decline over the following decade than those who rarely had nightmares. Among elderly participants, (72) _____ who frequently reported distressing dreams were twice as likely to be diagnosed with dementia in subsequent years.

Your answers:

63.	64.	65.	66.	67.
68.	69.	70.	71.	72.

Part 3. For questions 73-82, read the following text and choose the answer A, B, C or D. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 points)

A popular enlightenment

Alternative medicine has never enjoyed such popularity and respect as it does today. Therapies once dubbed 'pseudoscience' or 'quackery' are now typically referred to as 'alternative', 'complementary' or 'holistic'. Practices that used to circulate on the fringes are now accepted as mainstream. But the rise of alternative medicine poses a problem for defenders of science. Many see the fight-back as a lost cause, but I cannot share this view because the factors that allow quackery to prosper can and are being harnessed for a counter-revolution in defense of science itself.

In the past, those exploring alternative lifestyles joined groups of like-minded people and subscribed to counter-cultural magazines. They now participate in online communities

and surf the Internet, where they encounter alternative websites and blogs by the dozen, but also come across mainstream scientific viewpoints. In other words, the defense of science is also increasingly being undertaken by members of the public because the web has proved to be a crucial mobilising instrument for pro-science activists. Such defense was once conducted primarily by scholars; today the battle is often fought at an individual level via cut-and-thrust debate in blog postings. This social phenomenon of ‘angry nerds’ and ‘guerrilla bloggers’, dedicated to defending evidence-based medicine and challenging quackery, is important. Rather than relying on scientists to defend the boundaries of science, we are seeing a much more socially embedded struggle - a popular enlightenment project. Can such a project work? Reasserting goals of progress through reason and evidence is one thing, but whether it has any effect remains an open question. How easy is it to persuade people through factual corrections?

The answer seems to depend a great deal on the individual. For example, according to recent research, providing people who are ideologically committed to a particular view with incongruent information can backfire by causing them to dig their heels in and support their original argument even more strongly. This problem is a general one. A substantial body of psychological research suggests that humans tend to seek out and evaluate information that reinforces their existing views. The digital revolution has exacerbated the problem because, as journalist Farhad Manjoo writes, “whenever you want; seek out and discuss, in exhaustive and insular detail, the kind of news that pleases you; and indulge your political, social or scientific theories... among people who feel exactly the same way’.

I believe such pessimism goes too far, though. [A] However, the world has yet to enter what political scientist Michael Barkun of Syracuse University in New York calls ‘complete epistemological pluralism’. [B] Indeed, the fact that quacks keep trying to get the imprimatur of science for their discredited ideas, by trying to publish their work in peer-viewed journals, for examples, speaks to the continued public prestige and power of science. [C] Furthermore, their support base is far from fixed in stone. Some people are so committed to unorthodox views that they cannot be moved, but they are the exception.

[D] In general, people motivated to explore the ‘cultic milieu’ - that fluid countercultural space in which alternative therapies and conspiracy theories flourish - are open to changing their minds.

In his seminal work on the cultic milieu, sociologist Colin Campbell of York University in the UK, stresses that it is not a space where firm opinions are held but rather a ‘society of seekers’ - people who ‘do not necessarily cease seeking when a revealed truth is offered to them’. This creates the space for pro-science activists to compete for attention. When they do so, the Internet becomes a tougher place for people to sequester themselves in a comfortable cocoon of the like-minded. This is good news for the enlightenment project. People may be biased in favour of interpretations that align with their prejudices but this does not mean that they just believe what they like. Faced with information of sufficient quantity or clarity, people do change their minds.

So the challenge for the pro-science movement is to keep an active and credible online presence. The web is an anarchic space where defense of science ranges from ridicule and banter to serious discussion about findings along with links to scientific articles and reports. It looks, in other words, like that space that used to be the preserve of the cultic milieu - but with greater informational depth. The weapons of science and reason are still very much in contention.

73. The writer expresses disapproval of scientists who

- A. overlook the significance of alternative medicine.
- B. embrace the ideas put forward by proponents of alternative medicine.
- C. use pejorative language to refer to alternative medicine.
- D. abandon attempts to challenge claims made by alternative medicine.

74. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT mentioned?

- A. the transition of alternative medicine from ‘quackery’ to mainstream
- B. the expansion of pro-science groups from academic settings to online platforms
- C. the inclusion of laypersons into supporters of science
- D. the diversification of magazines into counter-culture

75. Which of the following statements best clarifies the sentence “**The answer seems to depend a great deal on the individual**” in the passage?

- A. People who have amour propre are narrow-minded and therefore unable to accept contradictory proof, unlike their open-minded counterparts.
- B. People with an idée fixe are confined to their personal unconventional viewpoints, while those interested in a counter-cultural space are more willing to modify their opinions.
- C. Ideologues are devoid of the ability to change their mind, whereas those eager to explore the ‘cultic milieu’ are more susceptible to changes in opinions.
- D. Those with idiocy are resistant to shifts in their opinions, but whoever motivated enough are open to leave their viewpoints changed.

76. The use of the quote by a journalist in the passage suggests that the Internet is a meeting place for

- A. people with very fixed viewpoints to support each other.
- B. pro-science activists attempting to defame alternative medicine.
- C. users seeking reinforcement of their ideologies.
- D. amateurs desiring to corroborate their beliefs with facts.

77. Proponents of discredited ideas about complementary medicine

- A. are consistent in the arguments they put forward.
- B. feel that they are given a raw deal by the scientific community.
- C. are inclined to ignore the evidence to the contrary produced by scientists.
- D. are interested in gaining the approval of the scientific community.

78. Which of the following square brackets [A], [B], [C], or [D] best indicates where in the paragraph the sentence “*The boundary between mainstream and alternative knowledge may have become more permeable.*” can be inserted?

- A. [A]
- B. [B]
- C. [C]
- D. [D]

79. According to the passage, how the Internet has assisted pro-scientists in their attempts to defend their principles?

- A. It has become a place for discussions about complementary medicine held by its supporters.
- B. It has caused people to be exposed to viewpoints to the contrary, not just similar opinions as theirs.
- C. It has tarnished the fame of alternative medicine and eased criticism levelled at science-based medicine.
- D. It has fuelled passion for science in scholars and scientists alike.

80. The writer emphasizes the need for pro-scientists to

- A. cite relevant data on any discussions on the Internet.
- B. avoid getting engaged in heated discussions with laypersons on the Internet.
- C. maintain the integrity and exposure of scientific viewpoints on the Internet.
- D. recede from any discussion which is getting more fiery.

81. From the passage, it can be inferred that

- A. Concepts behind alternative medicine have been roundly castigated by people of the public.
- B. Attempts to belabor the point that complementary medicine remains ‘quackery’ have been to no avail.
- C. The social phenomenon instigated by debates between alternative and science-based medicine has culminated in the victory for the latter.
- D. The enlightenment project entails people with prejudices altering their views.

82. It can be deduced from the passage that the author

- A. consents to the action of retreating into a world of like-minded people.
- B. yearns to avert the flourishing of science-based medicine.
- C. takes a sanguine view of science and reasoned arguments.
- D. objects to the use of the Internet for the sake of science.

Your answers

73.	74.	75.	76.	77.
78.	79.	80.	81.	82.

Part 4. Read the following text and answer questions 83-95. (13 points)

ROBOTS

Since the dawn of human ingenuity, people have devised ever more cunning tools to cope with work that is dangerous, boring, onerous, or just plain nasty. That compulsion has culminated in robotics - the science of conferring various human capabilities on machines.

A. The modern world is increasingly populated by quasi-intelligent gizmos whose presence we barely notice but whose creeping ubiquity has removed much human drudgery. Our factories hum to the rhythm of robot assembly arms. Our banking is done at automated teller terminals that thank us with rote politeness for the transaction. Our subway trains are controlled by tireless robo-drivers. Our mine shafts are dug by automated moles, and our nuclear accidents - such as those at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl - are cleaned up by robotic muckers fit to withstand radiation.

Such is the scope of uses envisioned by Karel Capek, the Czech playwright who coined the term 'robot' in 1920 (the word 'robota' means 'forced labor' in Czech). As progress accelerates, the experimental becomes the exploitable at record pace.

B. Other innovations promise to extend the abilities of human operators. Thanks to the incessant miniaturisation of electronics and micromechanics, there are already robot systems that can perform some kinds of brain and bone surgery with submillimeter accuracy - far greater precision than highly skilled physicians can achieve with their hands alone. At the same time, techniques of long-distance control will keep people even farther from hazard. In 1994 a ten-foot-tall NASA robotic explorer called Dante, with video-camera eyes and with spiderlike legs, scrambled over the menacing rim of an Alaskan volcano while technicians 2,000 miles away in California watched the scene by satellite and controlled Dante's descent.

C. But if robots are to reach the next stage of labour-saving utility, they will have to operate with less human supervision and be able to make at least a few decisions for themselves - goals that pose a formidable challenge. 'While we know how to tell a robot to handle a specific error,' says one expert, 'we can't yet give a robot enough common sense to reliably interact with a dynamic world.' Indeed the quest for true artificial

intelligence (AI) has produced very mixed results. Despite a spasm of initial optimism in the 1960s and 1970s, when it appeared that transistor circuits and microprocessors might be able to perform in the same way as the human brain by the 21st century, researchers lately have extended their forecasts by decades if not centuries.

D. What they found, in attempting to model thought, is that the human brain's roughly one hundred billion neurons are much more talented - and human perception far more complicated - than previously imagined. They have built robots that can recognise the misalignment of a machine panel by a fraction of a millimeter in a controlled factory environment. But the human mind can glimpse a rapidly changing scene and immediately disregard the 98 per cent that is irrelevant, instantaneously focusing on the woodchuck at the side of a winding forest road or the single suspicious face in a tumultuous crowd. The most advanced computer systems on Earth can't approach that kind of ability, and neuroscientists still don't know quite how we do it.

E. Nonetheless, as information theorists, neuroscientists, and computer experts pool their talents, they are finding ways to get some lifelike intelligence from robots. One method renounces the linear, logical structure of conventional electronic circuits in favour of the messy, ad hoc arrangement of a real brain's neurons. These 'neural networks' do not have to be programmed. They can 'teach' themselves by a system of feedback signals that reinforce electrical pathways that produced correct responses and, conversely, wipe out connections that produced errors. Eventually the net wires itself into a system that can pronounce certain words or distinguish certain shapes.

F. In other areas researchers are struggling to fashion a more natural relationship between people and robots in the expectation that some day machines will take on some tasks now done by humans in, say, nursing homes. This is particularly important in Japan, where the percentage of elderly citizens is rapidly increasing. So experiments at the Science University of Tokyo have created a 'face robot' - a life-size, soft plastic model of a female head with a video camera imbedded in the left eye - as a prototype. The researchers' goal is to create robots that people feel comfortable around. They are concentrating on the face because they believe facial expressions are the most important way to transfer emotional

messages. We read those messages by interpreting expressions to decide whether a person is happy, frightened, angry, or nervous. Thus the Japanese robot is designed to detect emotions in the person it is 'looking at' by sensing changes in the spatial arrangement of the person's eyes, nose, eyebrows, and mouth. It compares those configurations with a database of standard facial expressions and guesses the emotion. The robot then uses an ensemble of tiny pressure pads to adjust its plastic face into an appropriate emotional response.

G. Other labs are taking a different approach, one that doesn't try to mimic human intelligence or emotions. Just as computer design has moved away from one central mainframe in favour of myriad individual workstations - and single processors have been replaced by arrays of smaller units that break a big problem into parts that are solved simultaneously - many experts are now investigating whether swarms of semi-smart robots can generate a collective intelligence that is greater than the sum of its parts. That's what beehives and ant colonies do, and several teams are betting that legions of mini-critters working together like an ant colony could be sent to explore the climate of planets or to inspect pipes in dangerous industrial situations.

Question 83 - 92

Reading Passage has seven paragraphs A-G.

From the list of headings below choose the most suitable heading for each paragraph.

List of Headings

- i.** Some success has resulted from observing how the brain functions.
- ii.** Are we expecting too much from one robot?
- iii.** Scientists are examining the humanistic possibilities.
- iv.** There are judgements that robots cannot make.
- v.** Has the power of robots become too great?
- vi.** Human skills have been heightened with the help of robotics.
- vii.** There are some things we prefer the brain to control.
- viii.** Robots have quietly infiltrated our lives.
- ix.** Original predictions have been revised.

x. Another approach meets the same result.
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Ex. Paragraph A: viii

83. Paragraph B: _____

84. Paragraph C: _____

85. Paragraph D: _____

86. Paragraph E: _____

87. Paragraph F: _____

Your answers:

83.	84.	85.	86.	87.
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For questions 88-92, decide whether each of the following statement agrees with the view of the writer in the passage. Write in the corresponding numbered boxes

YES if the statement agrees with the information in the passage

NO if the statement contradicts the information in the passage

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this in the passage

88. Karel Capek successfully predicted our current uses for robots.

89. Lives were saved by the NASA robot, Dante.

90. Robots are able to make fine visual judgements.

91. The internal workings of the brain can be replicated by robots.

92. The Japanese have the most advanced robot systems.

Your answers:

88.	89.	90.	91.	92.
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Questions 93-95

Complete the summary below with words taken from paragraph F.

Use **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes **88-90** on your answer sheet.

The prototype of the Japanese ‘face robot’ observes humans through a **93.** _____ which is planted in its head. It then refers to a **94.** _____ of

typical 'looks' that the human face can have, to decide what emotion the person is feeling. To respond to this expression, the robot alters its own expression using a number of **95**.

_____.

Your answers:

93.	94.	95.
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Part 5: For questions 96 – 105, read the text about charity and choose from the people marked A, B, C and D. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (15pts)

Is charity as important as we are told it is?

A. Mark

No matter how convinced we may be that we are members of a caring, responsible society that has a well-established safety net, the fact remains that there are still plenty of people who fall through the cracks. Too many of us sit back, supposedly safe in the knowledge that the authorities are living up to the duty of care they have for the most vulnerable members of society. In fact, even a not particularly rigorous examination of the trials and tribulations faced by some people will reveal plenty of situations in which they are enduring difficulties that are not even officially acknowledged, never mind addressed. The nub of the matter is that, in too many cases, people only become aware of some of the extreme difficulties faced by fellow citizens when they themselves become victims of the same circumstances - and in the process discover that there is actually no official they can turn to for help.

B. Alice

Charities are organisations set up in an attempt to offer a lifeline to those who, often through no fault of their own, find themselves in extremely difficult circumstances for which the state can't or won't give them any meaningful or effective assistance. In the same way, we must consider situations where we, personally, could step in to give a hand. For the fortunate amongst us, when we consider our own lives, we will likely become aware of the extent to which our family members and other people close to us help us to

overcome our problems. Sadly, a lot of people are not blessed with caring relatives or friends, and this is where we ought to consider how we can be good neighbours. Of course, we can't do much in this regard if we have little contact with our neighbours and even less awareness of anything going on in their lives. However, there are plenty of charities that do try to help people and could do a better job if they had more assistance or support from us. I believe at we can provide some useful help to people in our communities if we make the effort to contact a charity that interests us and offer our support in whatever way we can.

C. Julian

In an ideal world, far fewer people would be reliant on charities. The sad reality reflects poorly on society, particularly as regards the extent to which the authorities are able to relieve the burdens which some people end up facing alone. I know of regrettable instances where children are given detention at school for 'offences' that arise simply because they have to take time out to look after seriously ill or disabled parents. As a result of these detentions, they then have even less time to support their parents. Obviously, this creates a vicious circle that will lead the child to missing out on a significant part of their education and could quite possibly have even worse consequences. As a result of finding out about someone in such circumstances, I am now shouldering some of that child's burden, but I have not yet found a charity that I can turn to for more help.

D. Beth

On the whole, I think we're fairly spoilt compared with people who live in certain other parts of the world. We live in a democracy which has operated a welfare state for several generations. I appreciate that the budget doesn't always allow enough funding to ensure that everyone gets adequate support, but we also have a long history of philanthropy. Personally, I am lucky to have a great network of friends and relatives whom I can turn to for assistance, but I know that lots of people must get by without this advantage. To tell the truth, there are quite a few charities that I don't consider to be particularly important or useful, but that is none of my concern, since I'm not forced to give them donations.

However, there are others that I thoroughly approve of, and I actually volunteer for one of them in my free time.

Which person gives each of these opinions about charities?

Which person mentions	Answers
91. It's difficult to help the people around us if we don't know what problems they are facing.	_____
92. I value the work of some charitable organisations more highly than that of others.	_____
93. Often, people only come to understand others' problems through personal experience.	_____
94. It would be preferable if the work of charities was not so necessary.	_____
95. It is understandable why the public sector can't take on more responsibility.	_____
96. Quite often an assumption people make results in them being less likely to take the initiative to help people.	_____
97. It is likely that problems not receiving adequate attention will be exacerbated.	_____
98. We can all help charities to work more effectively.	_____
99. Someone's personal circumstances should be considered before they are punished for something that they felt they had to do.	_____
100. It isn't hard to pinpoint examples of people with hardships who are receiving no help from the authorities.	_____

Your answers

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

SECTION D: WRITING (60 points)

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

The discovery that language can be a barrier to communication is quickly made by all who travel, study, govern or sell. Whether it's tourism, research, government, policing, business, or data dissemination, the lack of a common language can severely impede progress or can halt it altogether. 'Common language' here usually means a foreign language, but the same applies in principle to any encounter with unfamiliar dialects, styles or accents.

Although these communication problems occur frequently, few become public knowledge. Publicity comes only when a failure to communicate has major consequences, such as strikes, lost orders, legal problems, or fatal accidents — even, at times, war. One reported instance of communication failure took place in 1970, when several Americans ate a species of poisonous mushroom. No remedy was known, and two people died within days. A radio report of the case was heard by a chemist who knew of a treatment that had been successfully used in 1959 and published in 1963. Why had the American doctors not heard of it seven years later? Presumably, because the report of the treatment had been published only in journals written in European languages other than English. Isolated examples do not give an impression of the scale of the problem — something that can come only from studies of the use or avoidance of foreign-language materials and contacts in different communicative situations. In the English-speaking scientific world, surveys of books and documents consulted in libraries and other information agencies have shown that little foreign-language material is ever consulted. Library requests in the field of science and technology showed that only 13 per cent were for foreign language periodicals. Studies of the sources cited in publications found that the use of foreign-language sources is often found to be as low as 10 per cent.

The language barrier presents itself starkly to firms who wish to market their products in other countries. British industry, has in recent decades often been criticised for its linguistic insularity - for its assumption that foreign buyers will communicate in English, and that awareness of other languages is not therefore a priority. In the 1960s, over two-thirds of British firms dealing with non-English-speaking customers were using English for outgoing correspondence; many had their sales literature only in English; and as many

as 40 per cent employed no-one able to communicate in the customers' languages. A similar problem was identified in other English-speaking countries, notably the USA, Australia and New Zealand. And non-English-speaking countries were by no means exempt - although the widespread use of English as an alternative language made them less open to the charge of insularity.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

THE END

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