|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **UBND HUYỆN CẨM GIÀNG** | **GIỚI THIỆU ĐỀ THI CHỌN HỌC SINH GIỎI**  **LỚP 9 THCS NĂM HỌC 2024-2025**  **Môn thi: *Tiếng Anh***  **Thời gian làm bài: 150 phút** |

1. **LISTENING**

**I. Listen to FIVE short conversations and choose the correct answer to each . (5.0 points)**

**1.** Where are the dictionaries?

1. behind the computers **B.** on the desk
2. **C.** by the window **D.** on the armchairs

**2.** Which evening dress does the woman decide to wear?

**A.** the black one with long sleeves

**B.** the long-sleeved one with a wide belt

**C.** the short-sleeved one with a wide belt

**D.** the short-sleeved one with white flowers on the sleeves

**3.** What is the man’s job now?

1. an artist **B.** a businessman

**C**. a photographer **D**. a teacher

**4.** Which calendar will the boy buy?

1. the one with pictures of mountains on it
2. . the one with with boats on it
3. the one with wild animals on it
4. the one with the girl who loves sailing on it

**5.** What time will the writer arrive at the bookshop?

1. 2.15 **B.** 3.30
2. **C.** 1.45 **D.** 3.15

**II. You will hear a radio interview with a ballet dancer called Elena Karpov, who is talking about her life and career. Listen and choose the correct answer to each . (5.0 points)**

**6.** How old was Elena when she decided to become a dancer?

**A.** 7 **B.** 9 **C.** 11 **D.** 20

**7.** What does Elena say about the ballet called *Cinderrella?*

**A.** Children enjoy it. **B.** The music was unfamiliar to her.

**C.** She saw it when she was a child. **D.** It’s a story about a little girl.

**8.** What does Elena like to do in her free time?

**A.** do sightseeing **B.** go to clubs

**C.** go shopping **D.** go to the latest fashion shows

**9.** What does Elena often do for her fans?

**A.** She gives them a photograph of hers.

**B.** She gives them a flower.

**C.** She signs one of her photographs.

**D.** She sends them a free ticket.

**10.** What does Elena like best about her job?

1. appearing on television
2. being a guest dancer with ballet companies
3. doing something she loves.
4. travelling to different countries

**III. You will hear part of a talk about dolls. Complete the note below with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS for each answer. (5.0 points) (part 2 – test 1 – FCE 2)**

|  |
| --- |
| **Dolls**  The first known dolls were found in (**11**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in ancient Egypt.  The earliest dolls in the museum date from the 12th century.  Early European dolls were dressed like (**12**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  On the 17th-century dolls, you can see details like the make-up.  Collectors look for examples in perfect condition, with their (**13**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  19th-century dolls had soft bodies and red hair.  If you can take off the doll’s hair, you may see the (**14**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_underneath.  Before the 20th century, all dolls were little adults, not babies.  From the 1930s, dolls were made of (**15**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**IV. You will hear a woman called Julie and a man called Greg talking about an indoor wildlife centre they have visited. Listen and circle True or False. (5 points) (Pet 8- test 1 – part 4)**

**16.** They agree that the wildlife centre building is well designed.

A. True B. False

**17.** Julie thought the sharks at the centre were frightening.

A. True B. False

**18.** Julie found the building was too warm.

A. True B. False

**19.** Greg was disappointed with the number of insects.

A. True B. False

**20.** Greg only managed to see one tree frog.

A. True B. False

**B. LEXICO - GRAMMAR**

**I. Choose the answer which best fits the space in the following sentences. (15 points)**

**21**. My teacher reminded me\_\_\_\_\_\_ my essay carefully before handing it in.

A. checking B. to check C. to have checked D. checked

**22.** Hanh can’t go to the movies with us tonight. She will have to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her little sister.

A. turn on B. go on C. turn off D. look after

**23.** The oil price has\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by 20%.

A. raised B. risen C. raising D. arisen

**24.** Let your name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on this sheet of paper.

A. written B. be written C. to be written D. wrote

**25.** Fifty dollars for this coat\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a reasonable price

A. seems B. seem C. had D. have

**26.** Passing the classroom earlier this morning, I heard some students\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at each other.

A. shouted B. to shout C. shouting D. have shouted

**27.** That style of dress\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have been designed by Coco Chanel, because it wasn’t worn till her death.

A. wouldn’t B. can’t C. mustn’t D. shouldn’t

**28.** Study harder\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. if you will pass the exam B. and you will pass the exam

C. unless you pass the exam D. or you will pass the exam

**29**. Wearing uniforms help poor students feel equal\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ others.

A. up B. on C. with D. to

**Read the following advertisement and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 30 to 32. (3pts)**

Business operation will resume as normal (30)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3rd of May

Many thanks for your kind (31)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and being appreciative with this situation. On this occasion, we would like to thank you for your support and cooperation in the year 2023 and look forward to receiving your continuing assistance in 2024.

Should you have (32)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ s, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Wish you and your family a healthy, happy and successful holiday.

Best regards,

**30:** A. on B. in C. at D. about

**31:** A. attentive B. attendC. attentionD. attentively

**32:** A. fewB. anyC. manyD. a lot

**Read the following instruction and choose the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the correct option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 33 to 35.**

Conference Room 120 can be booked for meetings and conference calls. First, make a reservation request online at www.gzpoffice.com/confroom. When your request (33) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the system automatically checks for availability. Your request will be accepted if no other event is scheduled at that time. The system will then immediately send you an e-mail message to (34) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. However, if another meeting is scheduled that conflicts with yours, you will be notified that the request has been declined. Note that the reservations are (35) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is therefore advisable that you schedule your event well ahead of time. This way, if a given time slot is already reserved, you will be able to reschedule your meeting.

**33.**  A. is received B. is receiving C. to receive D. received

**34.** A. move your reservation B. cancel your reservation

C. change your reservation D. confirm your reservation

**35.**  A. our invitation to the event.

B. discussion points before the meeting

C. on a first-come, first served basis.

D. The time of the next meeting

**II. There are five mistakes in this passage. Find and correct them. (5.0 points)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Line** | **Passage** |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13 | The best way to learn English is to come to class **regular** and do your homework. If you miss several days of classes, for any reason, you cannot keep up with the others students. The Language and Culture Centre is a serious academic program in intensive English and wants all of its students to success. Therefore, students are expected to attend all classes regularly, do all classroom assignments, meet all class requirements, and make academic progress. Students who do not meet these standards may be placed on probation. Students placed on academic probation with meet their teacher(s) and with either or both the Associate Director and Foreign Student Advisor. Students will be inform in writing of the terms and length of their probation. Students who have 30 hours of absences are in danger of being placed on academic probation. Students fail to meet the terms of their probation will be terminated from the LCC for the remainder of the semester. This will also likely result on loss of student status with the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Line** | **Mistakes** | **Correction** |
|  | **00. regular** | **🡪 regularly** |
|  | **36.** | **🡪** |
|  | **37.** | **🡪** |
|  | **38.** | **🡪** |
|  | **39.** | **🡪** |
|  | **40.** | **🡪** |

**III. Give the correct form of the words in brackets. (5 pts)**

**41.** The roads in our town are being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (**WIDE**)

**42**. If we don't save energy, there will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of it in the future.. (**SHORT**)

**43.** He didn't feel happy because he worked            **(SUCCESS)**

**44.** We must make a           about where to go. **(DECIDE)**

**45.** I hope there won’t be too much           in getting a work permit. **(DIFFICULT)**

**C. READING**

**I. Five sentences have been removed from the text below. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap. There are TWO extra sentences which you do not need to use. (5.0 points)**

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** There are websites where people can arrange to meet up. **B.** If your car is this old it may need replacing. **C.** Make sure you carry out basic maintenance like checking the tyre pressure regularly. **D.** Try making more use of public transport. **E.** These problems mainly affect the city centres. **F.** All that extra weight will put more pressure on the engine. **G.** But sometimes it's difficult for us to do the right thing. |

**How to Save Petrol and the Environment**

We all know how important it is to protect the environment. **(46)** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** For example, if you're a motorist jumping in the car to go somewhere is balanced against the knowledge of how harmful each journey can be. But did you know that making a few simple changes to your driving habits will not only do less damage to our world but will also save you money and could even be good for your health?

  Do you really need to take the car? **(47)** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** If the service is reliable you'll soon get used to using buses and trains. In fact, for shorter journeys why not take the opportunity to get into shape and go on foot.

  Why not share the journey! How often do you see cars with just one occupant with the driver making the same journey as others living nearby? Why not car share and half the cost of the journey?  **(48)** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

  Try changing your habits. When you must use the car plan your journey so you can go to all the places you need to visit rather taking the car out again and again. If you get caught in a traffic jam switch off the engine when you're stationary for a long time. Try not to brake too sharply or accelerate too quickly as this will lead to you using up more fuel. On cold mornings don't warm up the engine before you start your journey and when you next put fuel in your car think about whether you really need to fill up the tank. **(49)**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

  Taking care of your car is very important. **(50)**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** And keep your car regularly serviced so that it runs as efficiently as possible.

  Steps like this will save you money and help you do your bit to protect the environment.

**II. Read the following passage and choose the best option for each blank to complete the passage. (10 points)**

Is there life on Mars? Many people have (**51**) \_\_\_\_\_ about this . Some writers of science-fiction think of people from Mars as little green creatures. Others (**52**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 'Martians' as monsters with many eyes. In studying this planet, astronomers have found that life may be possible on Mars. The first (**53**)\_\_\_\_\_\_ of this is that Mars has seasons, just like Earth. In other words, Earth's seasons, such as spring or summer, occur on Mars too. Because these seasons exist, it may be possible for **(54)** \_\_\_\_\_ and other higher life forms to be found on Mars. Astronomers also think that perhaps a small **(55)** \_\_\_\_\_ of water vapor could be found on Mars. In 1887, an Italian astronomer, Giovanni Schiaparelli, discovered markings on Mars' surface. These markings looked like canals. This finding (**56**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ astronomers to believe that since water exists on Mars, life forms could exist as well. However, there are **(57**) \_\_\_\_\_ who feel that life on Mars is not possible. This is because there is (**58**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or no trace of oxygen on the planet. In 1965, the Mariner IV capsule (**59**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to take photographs of the planet. It discovered that the only forms of life found are vegetation like fungi and mosses. **(60)** \_\_\_\_\_, people remain fascinated by the idea that there could one day be life on Mars.

**51.** **A.** puzzled **B.** asked **C.** wondered **D.** confused

**52.** **A.** observe **B.** suppose **C.** believe **D.** imagine

**53.** **A.** indication **B.** sign **C.** mark **D.** trace

**54. A.** vegetables **B.** vegetation **C.** vegetarian **D.** veterinary

**55.** **A.** quantity **B.** amount **C.** portion **D.** mass

**56.** **A.** got **B.** took **C.** led **D.** brought

**57.** **A.** others **B.** another **C.** other **D.** the others

**58.** **A.** a little **B.** a few **C.** few **D.** little

**59.** **A.** tried **B.** attempted **C.** managed **D.** strived

**60. A.** Accordingly **B.** Nevertheless **C.** Consequently **D.** Thus

**III. Read the following passages and choose the best answer to the s. (10 points)**

**III. Read the following passages and choose the best answer to the questions. (10 points)**

Commuting is the practice of travelling a long distance to a town or city to work each day, and then travelling home again in the evening. The word commuting comes from commutation ticket, a US rail ticket for **repeated** journeys, called a season ticket in Britain. Regular travellers are called commuters.

The US has many commuters. A few, mostly on the East Coast, commute by train or subway, but most depend on the car. Some leave home very early to avoid the traffic jams, and sleep in their cars until their office opens. Many people accept a long trip to work so that they can live in quiet bedroom communities away from the city, but another reason is ‘white flight’. In the 1960s most cities began to desegregate their schools, so that there were no longer separate schools for white and black children. Many white families did not want to send their children to desegregated schools, so they moved to the suburbs, which have their own schools, and where, for various reasons, few black people live.

Millions of people in Britain commute by car or train. Some spend two or three hours a day travelling, so that they and their families can live in suburbia or in the countryside. Cities are surrounded by commuter belts. Part of the commuter belt around London is called the stockbroker belt because it contains houses where rich business people live. Some places are becoming dormitory towns, because people sleep there but take little part in local activities.

Most commuters travel to and from work at the same time, causing the morning and evening rush hours, when buses and trains are crowded and there are traffic jams on the roads. Commuters on trains rarely talk to each other and spend their journey reading, sleeping or using their mobile phones, though this is not popular with other passengers. Increasing numbers of people now work at home some days of the week, **linked to** their offices by computer, a practice called telecommuting.

Cities in both Britain and the US are trying to reduce the number of cars coming into town each day. Some companies encourage car pooling (called car sharing in Britain), an arrangement for people who live and work near each other to travel together. Some US cities have a public service that helps such people to contact each other, and traffic lanes are reserved for car-pool vehicles. But cars and petrol/gas are cheap in the US, and many people prefer to drive alone because **it** gives them more freedom. In Britain many cities have park-and-ride schemes, car parks on the edge of the city from which buses take drivers into the centre.

(Extracted from Oxford Guide to British and American Culture, Oxford University Press, 2000)

**61:** Which of the following definitions of commuting would the author of this passage most probably agree with?

A. Travelling for hours from a town or city to work in the countryside every day.

B. Travelling to work and then home again in a day within a rural district.

C. Using a commutation ticket for special journeys in all seasons of the year.

D. Regularly travelling a long distance between one’s place of work and one’s home.

**62:** The word “**repeated**” in paragraph 1 most probably means\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. buying a season ticket again. B. doing something once again.

C. saying something again. D. happening again and again.

**63:** The passage mentions that many Americans are willing to travel a long distance to work in order to be able to live in \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. comfortable bedrooms B. quiet neighbourhoods  
 C. city centres D. noisy communities  
**64:** Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?  
 A. Britain has considerably more commuters than the US.

B. The US has considerably more commuters than Britain.  
 C. Both the US and Britain have a great number of commuters.

D. Commuting helps people in the US and Britain save a lot of time.  
**65:** Which of the following is NOT true about the London commuter belt?  
 A. It is home to some wealthy business people.

B. It is like “bedroom communities” in the US.

C. It is in central London. D. It surrounds London.

**66:**It can be inferred from the passage that dormitory towns in Britain are places where people\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. contribute to the local community B. are employed locally

C. take part in local activities D. stay for the night  
**67:** As mentioned in the passage, commuters usually\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. talk to each other during train journeys B. cause traffic congestion on the roads

C. go home from work at different hours D. go to work at different hours  
**68:** The phrase “**linked to**” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. satisfied with B. connected to

C. shared with D. related to  
**69:** All of the following are measures to reduce the number of cars coming into town each day in the US and/or Britain EXCEPT\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. car pooling/sharing B. traffic lanes for car pooling  
 C. park-and-ride schemes D. free car parks in the city centre  
**70:** The word “**it**” in the last paragraph refers to\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. travelling together B. car pool  
 C. driving alone D. petrol/gas

**D. WRITING**

**I. Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it means exactly the same as the sentence printed before it (5 points).**

**71**. . Although the play received good notice, not many people went to see it.

🖎 Despite **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**72.** No students in my class can speak English as fluently as she does.

🖎 She speaks **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**73**. She asked an assistant how much the Colombian coffee cost.

🖎 She asked, **“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_?”

**74**. Follow these safety instructions or you may get burnt.

🖎 If you **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**75**. It’s thought that the accident was caused by human error.

🖎 The accident is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_

**II. Write a letter to invite a penpal from Australia to celebrate The Lunar New Year with you in Vietnam. You should write about 100-120 words. (10 points)**

**In your letter, you should:**

- invite the friend,

- introduce the activities you and your friend can do at Tet,

- remind the friend to bring suitable clothing items to Vietnam.

**You may begin and end the letter as follows:**

*Dear Daisy,*

*………………….*

*………………….*

*Yours,*

*Hoang Minh*

**III. *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?***

***“Using Facebook is a waste of time for secondary school students.”***

***Write a paragraph of about 140 - 160 words to express your opinion, using specific details and examples to support your answer. ( 15.0 points)***

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **ĐÁP ÁN, BIỂU ĐIỂM** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Câu** | **Đáp án + Biểu điểm + Hướng dẫn chấm** | **Điểm** |
| **A. LISTENING** | | |
| **I** | **Tổng 5 điểm. Mỗi câu trả lời đúng cho 1 điểm**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 1A | 2C | 3D | 4B | 5A | | 5 điểm  1x5 |
| **II** | **Tổng 5 điểm. Mỗi câu trả lời đúng cho 1 điểm**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 6B | 7A | 8C | 9C | 10B | | 5 điểm  1x5 |
| **III** | **Tổng 5 điểm. Mỗi câu trả lời đúng cho 1 điểm**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 1. graves | 1. their/ the owner | 1. original clothes | 1. maker’s name(s) | 1. plastic | | 5 điểm  1x5 |
| **IV** | **Tổng 5 điểm. Mỗi câu trả lời đúng cho 1 điểm**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 16. F | 17. F | 18. T | 19. T | 20. F | | 5 điểm  1x5 |
| **B. GRAMMAR + VOCABULARY + LANGUAGE FUNCTION** | | |
| **I** | **Tổng 10 điểm. Mỗi câu trả lời đúng cho 1 điểm**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 21. B | 22. D | 23. B | 24. B | 25. A | | 26. C | 27. B | 28. B | 29. D | 30. A | | 31. C | 32. B | 33. A | 34. D | 35. C | |  |  |  |  |  | | 15 điểm  1x15 |
| **II** | **Tổng 5 điểm. Mỗi câu trả lời đúng cho 1 điểm**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Line | Error | Correction | | 1 | 00. regular | 🡪 regularly | | 2 | 36. others | 🡪 other | | 5 | 37. success | 🡪 succeed | | 8 | 38. inform | 🡪 informed | | 11 | 39. fail | 🡪 failing | | 14 | 40. on | 🡪 in | | 5 điểm  1x5 |
| **III** | **Tổng 5 điểm. Mỗi câu trả lời đúng cho 1 điểm**  41 widened  42 shortage  43. unsuccessfully  44. decision  45. difficulty | 5 điểm  1x5 |
| **C. READING** | | |
| **I** | **Tổng 5 điểm. Mỗi câu trả lời đúng cho 1 điểm**   1. G 47. D 48. A 49. F 50.C | 5 điểm  1x5 |
| **II** | **Tổng 10 điểm. Mỗi câu trả lời đúng cho 1 điểm**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 51. C | 52. D | 53. A | 54. B | 55. B | | 56. C | 57. A | 58. D | 59. C | 60. B | | 10 điểm  1x10 |
| **III** | **Tổng 10 điểm. Mỗi câu trả lời đúng cho 1 điểm**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 61. D | 62. D | 63. B | 64. C | 65.C | | 66. D | 67. B | 68. B | 69. D | 70.C | | 10 điểm  1x10 |
| **D. WRITING** | | |
| **0I** | 1. Despite *the fact that the play received good notice, not many people went to see it.*   72. She speaks *English the most fluently of all students in my class.*  73. She asked: *“How much does the Colombian coffee cost?”*  74. If you *don’t follow these safety instructions, you may get burnt.*  75. The accident is *thought to have been caused by human error.* |  |
| **II** | **\* Form: (1 point)**  - correct form of a letter.  **\* Task fulfillment: (4 points)**  - complete the letter with all relevant information  - well-organized  **\*Language: (5 points)**  - accurate grammar  - appropriate vocabulary | 10 điểm |
| **III** | **\* Form: (1 point)**  - correct form of a passage.  **\* Task fulfillment: (7 points)**  - complete the passage with all relevant information  - well-organized.  **\*Language: (7 points)**  - accurate grammar  - appropriate vocabulary | 15 điểm |
|  | **Tổng toàn bài** | 100 điểm |

**Khi thấy học sinh làm bài theo cách khác, giám khảo thảo luận, nếu thấy đúng vẫn cho điểm tối đa**

**TRANSCRIPT**

**PART I**

***One. Where are the dictionaries?***

Man:

As this is your first visit to the library, I'll show you round. As you can see, shelves are clearly labelled according to subject. Most books you may take home with you but some, such as foreign language dictionaries, must stay in the library. These can be found over there behind the computers and it's best if you take them to the desks by the window and study them there. Or you can use these armchairs if you prefer to sit somewhere more comfortable.

*Now listen again*.

***Two*. *Which evening dress does the woman decide to wear?***

**Man:** Why are you taking so long to decide what to wear tomorrow night? The black dress with the long sleeves will be fine!

**Woman**: Mmm... Long sleeves are a bit uncomfortable, but yes, it's a nice dress. Trouble is,

I've lent my short-sleeved dress to Angela. That would be perfect, it's a long dress with a wide belt... Anyway, let's see what I've got here . . . this one, also black, short- sleeved - but it's got white flowers on the sleeves.

**Man:** Why don't you phone Angela and get your dress back?

**Woman:** Yes, I think I will. [Pause]

*Now listen again*.

***Three. What is the man's job now*?**

**Man:** When I was young, I used to paint. I always dreamed of being an artist, painting pictures for a living. But I didn't do very well at school and so I left early to join my dad working in the family photography business. After a few years of that I got bored, and felt I wanted to go back and study. That's when I did my degree and teacher training, and I've taught photography ever since, although I still paint in my spare time.

***Four*. *Which calendar will* the boy *buy?***

**Boy:** Mum asked me to buy her a calendar. Shall I get this one with pictures of mountains, or this one with boats on it?

**Girl:** She loves sailing, so get that one. I like that one with wild animals, but I don't suppose Mum would. And you can't get the one with mountains because she had that last year.

**Boy:** Yes, I know. I'll get the one you suggested then.

***Five*. *What time will the writer arrive at the bookshop?***

Man: All fans of Peter Robbins should go to the South Street book store tomorrow afternoon, where Peter will sign copies of his book *Love of Life* and answer s. He is expected at a quarter past two and promises to stay until half past three, when he has to leave for another appointment. Get there as soon as you can because, if it's anything like Peter's last visit, queues will start to form at quarter to two or even earlier. Don't miss this opportunity to meet everyone's favourite writer.

*Now listen again*.

**PART II**

**Interviewer:** My guest today is the star of the London Ballet Company, twenty-two-year-old Elena

Karpov. Elena, you were born in Bulgaria. Did you always want to be a dancer?

**Elena:**

Well, I was a very lively little girl, so at the age of seven my mother sent me to gymnastics classes. When I was nine, I went on to ballet lessons and from that moment I knew that I wanted to spend my life dancing. Two years later, when I was eleven, I won a place at the New York Ballet School.

**Interviewer:** So you had to move to the United States. Did you miss your family?

**Elena:** Oh yes. At first it was difficult being away from home and not knowing a lot of English. But it taught me how to look after myself and not to depend on others. There were other Bulgarian students there, and we actually found it quite easy to learn enough English to take part in the lessons with the other students.

**Interviewer**: Tell us about your latest role with the London Ballet Company. Elena:

**Elena:** I'm going to dance the part of *Cinderella*. It's a story about a poor girl who marries a handsome prince. My parents used to read it to me when I was little. I'd never seen the ballet before, but I already knew the music really well. I'm sure children will love the ballet.

**Interviewer**: What do you do when you're not practising or performing?

**Elena:** Before I joined this company I spent two weeks going round London as a tourist. I don't have time for sightseeing now, but I love trying on the latest fashions with my friends. I'm always buying new jeans and trainers! I'm not too keen on discos and nightclubs - I dance enough during the day!

**Interviewer:** You must have lots of fans.

**Elena:** Quite a few! They always ask for a photograph of me, but unfortunately I don't have many to give away. I sometimes sign their programmes instead, and if I can I give them one of the flowers I've received from the audience. They always ask for tickets, but of course that's not possible.

**Interviewer:** What's been the best thing that's happened in your career so far?

**Elena:** Well, I've been a guest dancer with ballet companies in Moscow and Vienna, and I appeared twice on television in Bulgaria and met the president! I shall never forget that! But the most satisfying thing for me is that I'm paid for doing what I really enjoy dancing!

**Interviewer**: Elena, thank you for talking to us.

**Elena:**

[Pause]

Thank you.

**PART II**

Dolls have always fascinated me, and that's why, five years ago, I was delighted to be offered the job of running a doll museum.

Dolls have existed for thousands of years, and the earliest dolls we know about were found in graves in ancient Egypt. I only wish we could get one or two for our museum, but we haven't unfortunately got anything as old as that in the museum. All the same, we have got examples from Europe from the twelfth century, but my favourite early dolls are actually from the seventeenth century. They interest me not just because they are early, or fairly early, but also because of the clothes they're wearing. They have their original clothes, and from them we know what the owners wore, since dolls in those days were always dressed like their owners. They were made of the only material readily available for things like this at the time: solid wood, and they were painted in great detail. In fact, on the best examples, like the ones in the museum, the detail includes the seventeenth-century make-up.

Dolls like these were very expensive then, and only the very rich could afford them. These days, they're popular with collectors and if you want one today, you have to pay anything up to ten thousand pounds for a doll in perfect condition from this time! By the way, what makes them so valuable is that, as far as a collector is concerned, a doll is only worth collecting if it is in perfect condition, and that means having the original clothes.

Doll collecting has become very fashionable since the museum opened, with people interested in dolls from every period, including later dolls. There's great interest in nineteenth-century examples, when dolls were no longer made of wood, but began to have soft bodies and real hair. They were very delicate and few have survived, meaning such a doll would be worth about two thousand pounds, perhaps a bit more. Later, in the nineteenth century, you could often take off the doll's hair. If you can, you can often see the maker's name underneath, and of course the right one increases a doll's value.

There was a really big change in dolls at the beginning of the twentieth century. In the museum we have one of the earliest examples, from about 1909, of a doll that's a model of a baby. Previously all dolls, the earlier ones, were little adults. That's just one of the changes that have occurred in the last hundred years. Another, again, is to do with what dolls are made of. Although dolls with soft bodies continued, after about 1930, plastic began to be used. In fact, dolls from the 1930s and 40s are now very popular with collectors, some of them selling for very, very high prices.

**PART IV**

**Greg:** Hi Julie. Wasn't the indoor wildlife centre fantastic? I've never seen such an amazing building, with its glass walls and all those different floors.

**Julie:** Hi Greg. Didn't you find it tiring though, walking up so many stairs, and it was so hard to find your way round? That's not what I call good design.

**Greg:** I didn't really think about that.

**Julie:** It was an interesting start down in the basement, where it was so dark that I didn't see the sharks at first in the water behind the glass.

**Greg:** They were quite scary. You must know how dangerous they are.

**Julie:** Only if you're silly enough to swim with them! Anyway, what did you think of the temperature in the building?

**Greg:** It has to be so high in there because of all those tropical trees growing. They need a lot of heat.

**Julie:** I suppose so. It felt really uncomfortable to me. I loved the banana trees though. Those butterflies right at the top of the building were amazing - so huge and colourful. But I thought there would be a lot more insects to see. There were hardly any really.

**Julie:** Just as well! Who wants to see a load of insects! I don't find them especially interesting at the best of times. Did you manage to see any tree frogs? They're so cute.

**Greg:** I spent ages hunting for them. They manage to hide by having skin that looks like part of a tree and they lie still without moving. I couldn't find a single one.

**Julie:** Yeah, they're not stupid - making sure they can't be seen by hungry birds! I really can't wait to go back 'cos there was just too much to see.

**Greg:** I'd like to read more about the wildlife before I think of going back there. Don't you think we'd enjoy it more if we knew more about the animals?

**Julie:** I'm not so sure really.