

I. Vocabulary (20%):

Please choose the word that BEST completes the sentence.

1. An _____ idea, system, person or society is one that expresses or supports the belief that all people are equal and should have the same rights and opportunities.
(a) equivalent (b) egalitarian (c) efficacious (d) effluent
2. The document was found amid all the papers _____ strewn on her desk.
(a) haphazardly (b) coherently (c) carefully (d) accidentally
3. This word list provides excellent illustrative sentences for each word; it cannot, however, explain all the _____ of current English usage.
(a) positions (b) edges (c) niceties (d) happenings
4. Farmers have learned that it is advisable to permit land to lie _____ every few years.
(a) shallow (b) fallow (c) mellow (d) fertile
5. The _____ odor of camphor clung to the clothes and did not fade away until they had been thoroughly aired.
(a) perverse (b) passive (c) pervasive (d) pertinent
6. As Karen signed the contract, she suddenly had second thoughts and wanted to take it back, but she could not. Her action was _____.
(a) irreverent (b) irrelevant (c) irrevocable (d) irreproachable
7. The challenge for church people nowadays is how to be _____ in the best sense, that is to be devout without becoming narrowminded.
(a) sanctimonious (b) pious (c) biased (d) prejudiced
8. A _____ editor, she double-checked every definition for its accuracy.
(a) conscientious (b) cavalier (c) continuous (d) callous
9. Josh was fired from his position as supervisor because of his constant _____.
(a) sobriety (b) inebriety (c) piety (d) variety
10. During the war, _____, though they refused to bear arms, nevertheless served in the frontlines as ambulance drivers and medics.
(a) anarchists (b) nihilists (c) pacifists (d) insurrectionists

II. Sentence structure (20%):

Choose the best answer that makes the sentence grammatically correct.

11. It's getting dark, please _____ the lights.
(a) open (b) turn on (c) touch

12. When Jane arrived _____ the restaurant, her friends sang happy birthday to her.
(a) in (b) to (c) at
13. Can you meet me _____ near the Taipei Train Station?
(a) anywhere (b) somewhere (c) elsewhere
14. Pavlov's experiment _____ he trains a dog to salivate on hearing a bell is a paradigm of the conditioned response in behavioral psychology.
(a) on which (b) in which (c) with which
15. _____ the twins were separated at birth and grew up in different families, a striking similarity exists between their lives.
(a) However (b) Hence (c) Although
16. This is the crux of the entire problem: everything centers on its _____.
(a) resolve (b) being resolved (c) with resolve
17. The dog cringed, _____ a blow.
(a) expect (b) to expect (c) expecting
18. If Morris hadn't been sick, he _____ to our BBQ party.
(a) could come (b) will come (c) would have come
19. Sushi is _____ raw fish.
(a) made from (b) made with (c) made of
20. He _____ passed the test, but he spent too much time surfing the Internet.
(a) should have (b) would have (c) could have

III. Cloze Test (40%):

Choose the best answer for the missing words in the excerpted passages

A lot of young people have great difficulty 21 themselves to a relationship or a career because of the feeling that once they do, they're 22 for a long, long time. On the other hand, they feel they've got to get on the right "track," because, after all, this is a long and terrifying commitment. I think it is very 23 for college students when an older person says to them, "Your first job after college need not be the beginning of an ascending curve that's going to take you through your life. It can be a 24. You might be doing something different in five years." That's something that young people need to hear: that the continuous story, where the whole of a person's life is prefigured very early on, is a cultural creation, not a 25 of life as it is really lived.

21. (a) constraining (b) containing (c) committing (d) detaining

22. (a) trapped (b) tracked (c) tackled (d) convicted
23. (a) restricting (b) liberating (c) condemning (d) demeaning
24. (a) zigzag (b) dead end (c) conclusion (d) solution
25. (a) retraction (b) reflection (c) resolution (d) revolution

Communication among members of international cultures poses one of the most perplexing __26__ communication problems. How are we to understand others when they come from different parts of the global village is a most difficult question. We only need to look around the world at any particular moment in time to find disagreement, __27__, and fighting—the locations may change, but the problems __28__. Nations become prominent in the news, and what happens within them and between them directly __29__ the entire world. To help us better understand people from different cultures, we must learn to appreciate their __30__.

26. (a) interstellar (b) intercultural (c) intertextual (d) internal
27. (a) accord (b) appeasement (c) strife (d) settlement
28. (a) persist (b) cease (c) increase (d) deter
29. (a) effects (b) affects (c) detects (d) attacks
30. (a) diversity (b) adversity (c) atrocity (d) sagacity

For a habit to change, people must believe that change is __31__. And most often, that belief only emerges with the help of a group. If you want to quit smoking, figure out a different routine that will __32__ the cravings filled by cigarettes. Then find a support group, a collection of former smokers, or a community that will help you believe you can stay away from nicotine, and use that group when you feel you might __33__. If you want to lose weight, study your habits to determine why you leave your desk for a snack each day, and then find someone else to take a walk with you, to gossip with at their desk rather than in the cafeteria, a group that tracks weight-loss goals together, or someone who snacks on apples rather than chips. The evidence is clear: if you want to change a habit, you must find an __34__ routine and your odds of __35__ go up dramatically when you commit to changing as part of a group.

31. (a) passable (b) possible (c) impossible (d) improbable
32. (a) attain (b) pertain (c) satisfy (d) deprive
33. (a) stumble (b) bumble (c) humble (d) fumble
34. (a) other (b) alternative (c) substitute (d) different
35. (a) failure (b) success (c) loss (d) gain

Human nature seems to regard perpetual scarcity as the law of life. Daily I am astonished at how readily I believe that something I need is in short supply. If I __36__ possessions, it is because I believe that there is not enough to go around. If I struggle with others over power, it is because I believe power is limited. If I become jealous in relationships, it is because I believe that if you get too much love I will be __37__. The irony, often tragic, is that by embracing the scarcity __38__, we create the very scarcities we fear. If I hoard material goods, others will have too little and I will never have enough. If I fight my way up the ladder of __39__, others will be defeated and I will never feel secure. If I get jealous of someone I love, I am likely to drive that person away. If I cling to the words I have written as if they were the last of their kind, the pool of new

possibilities will surely go dry. We create scarcity by fearfully accepting it as law, and by competing with others for resources as if we were 40 on the Sahara at the last oasis.

- 36. (a) discard (b) hoard (c) give away (d) give up
- 37. (a) shortchanged (b) blacklisted (c) enlisted (d) detested
- 38. (a) solution (b) assumption (c) supposition (d) proposition
- 39. (a) years (b) life (c) power (d) knowledge
- 40. (a) landed (b) branded (c) stranded (d) arrived

IV. Reading & comprehension(20%):

Read the following passages and answer the following questions.

Seventy thousand years ago, Homo Sapiens was still an insignificant animal minding its own business in a corner of Africa. In the following millennia it transformed itself into the master of the entire planet and the terror of the ecosystem. Today it stands on the verge of becoming a god, poised to acquire not only eternal youth, but also the divine abilities of creation and destruction.

Unfortunately, the Sapiens regime on earth has so far produced little that we can be proud of. We have mastered our surroundings, increased food production, built cities, established empires and created far-flung trade networks. But did we decrease the amount of suffering in the world? Time and again, massive increases in human power did not necessarily improve the well-being of individual Sapiens, and usually caused immense misery to other animals.

In the last few decades we have at least made some real progress as far as the human condition is concerned, with the reduction of famine, plague and war. Yet the situation of other animals is deteriorating more rapidly than ever before, and the improvement in the lot of humanity is too recent and fragile to be certain of.

Moreover, despite the astonishing things that humans are capable of doing, we remain unsure of our goals and we seem to be as discontented as ever. We have advanced from canoes to galleys to steamships to space shuttles—but nobody knows where we're going. We are more powerful than ever before, but have very little idea what to do with all that power. Worse still, humans seems to be more irresponsible than ever. Self-made gods only with the laws of physics to keep us company, we are accountable to no one. We are constantly wreaking havoc on our fellow animals and on the surrounding ecosystem, seeking little more than our own comfort and amusement, yet never finding satisfaction.

Is there anything more dangerous than dissatisfied and irresponsible gods who don't know what they want?

(excerpt from Sapiens—A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Hariri)

- 41. According to the author, we have made real progress in
 - a) environmental protection
 - b) ecological conservation
 - c) technological advancement
 - d) spiritual development

42. Which adjective best reflects the author's sentiments?
a) optimistic b) indifferent c) apprehensive d) defensive
43. As self-made gods, humans are
a) arrogant and reckless
b) benevolent and compassionate
c) calculating and devious
d) omniscient and omnipotent
44. Which statement reflects the author's views?
a) Homo sapiens and animals co-exist peacefully on earth.
b) Animals exist to serve humankind.
c) Homo sapiens have contributed to improving the well-being of other animals.
d) Humans have abused other animals.
45. What does the author consider to be the greatest danger to humankind?
a) Famine and war
b) Cruelty towards animals
c) Human suffering
d) Power and greed

The Internet has produced a foaming Niagara of writing. Consider these current rough estimates: Each day we compose 154 billion emails and more than 500 million tweets on Twitter. On Facebook, we write about 16 billion words per day. That's just in the United States. In China, it's 100 million updates each day on Sina Weibo, the country's most popular microblogging tool, and millions more on social networks in other languages worldwide, including Russia's VK. Text messages are terse, but globally they're our most frequent piece of writing: 12 billion per day.

How much writing is that, precisely? Well, doing an extraordinarily crude back-of-the-napkin calculation, and sticking only to email and utterances in social media, I calculate that we're composing at least 3.6 trillions words daily, or the equivalent of 36 million books every day. The entire U. S. Library of Congress, by comparison, holds around 35 million books.

Is any of the writing good? Well, that depends on your standards of course. The science fiction writer Theodore Sturgeon famously said something like, "Ninety percent of everything is crap," a formulation that geeks now refer to as Sturgeon's Law. Anyone who's spent time slogging through the swamp of books, journalism, TV and movies know that Sturgeon's Law holds pretty well even for edited and curated culture. So a global eruption of unedited, everyday self-expression is probably even more likely to produce this 90-10 split—an ocean of dreck, dotted sporadically by islands of genius. Nor is the volume of production uniform. Surveys of commenting and posting generally find that a minority of people are doing most of the creation we see online. They're ferociously over productive, while the rest of the online crowd is quieter. Still, the sheer profusion of thoughtful material that is produced everyday online is enormous.

And what makes this explosion truly remarkable is what came before: comparatively little. For many people, almost nothing. Before the Internet came along, most people rarely wrote anything at all for pleasure or intellectual satisfaction after graduating from high school or college. This is something that's hard to grasp for professionals whose jobs require incessant writing, like academics, journalists, lawyers, or marketers.

(excerpt from *Smarter Than You Think: How Technology is Changing Our Minds for the Better* by Clive Thomson)

46. The most prolific form of writing nowadays is:
a) blog posts b) tweets on twitter c) text messages d) Facebook posts
47. According to Sturgeon's Law,
a) Only a fraction of the written content on the Internet is any good
b) A minority of the people are doing most of the writing online
c) Online content has to be carefully edited and curated
d) Only ten percent of the population can produce readable content
48. Which statement is true?
a) With the advent of the Internet, writing has become a lost skill.
b) Thirty six million books are being published every day.
c) People are expressing themselves through writing more than ever before on social media
d) Before the Internet, people often wrote for pleasure and intellectual satisfaction. Nowadays, a lot of the stuff written is garbage.
49. Which statement is false?
a) The proliferation of online writing is a western phenomenon.
b) Sturgeon's Law can be applied to edited and curated culture.
c) Professionals can't wrap their heads around the fact that most people stop writing once they graduate from school.
d) Most of the online content we read have actually been created by a small group of people so there is very little thoughtful material that matters.
50. Which is the best headline for this passage?
a) Writing for Self-Expression Explodes on the Internet
b) 90% of the Content on the Internet is Crap
c) 36 Million Books Published Daily on Internet
d) The Importance of Digital Literacy