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| --- | --- |
| **SỞ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO**  **THANH HÓA**  ĐỀ CHÍNH THỨC  *(Đề thi có 10 trang, gồm 70 câu)* | **KỲ THI CHỌN HỌC SINH GIỎI CÁP TỈNH**  **NĂM HỌC 2025**-**2026**  **Môn thi: TIẾNG ANH - THPТ**  *Thời gian làm bài: 90 phút, không kể thời gian phát đề* |
| **Họ, tên thí sinh:** ..........................................................................  [**Mã đề thi 8006**](https://s.shopee.vn/3q2HVw2kgo)  **Số báo danh:** ............................................................................... | |

# SECTION A: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (70 points)

# I. LISTENING

**HƯỚNG DẪN PHẦN THI NGHE HIỂU**

*- Bài nghe gồm 3 phần, mỗi phần được nghe 2 lần, mỗi lần cách nhau 10 giây, mở đầu và kết thúc mỗi phần nghe đều có tín hiệu.*

*- Mở đầu và kết thúc bài nghe có tín hiệu nhạc.*

*- Mọi hướng dẫn cho thí sinh (bằng tiếng Anh) đã có trong bài nghe.*

## Part 1: You will hear a woman speaking to a group of people who are planning a village fete. For questions 1–5, choose the answer (A, B, C, or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

**1.** This year’s village fete takes place on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** Friday 9th | **B.** Wednesday 16th | **C.** Saturday 19th | **D.** Sunday 20th |

**2.** The ticket sales data from last year imply about this year’s fundraising strategy that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** additional income must come from stalls and games |
| **B.** organizers expect fewer attendees |
| **C.** discounted tickets will be removed |
| **D.** ticket prices will increase to meet the target |

**3.** The thing that makes the chocolate throw game challenging is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** players must hit a moving target |
| **B.** it requires teamwork and coordination |
| **C.** players must answer a question before throwing |
| **D.** the penny must land and stay on the chocolate bar |

**4.** The chocolate throw might be popular among children because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** it’s a traditional game |
| **B.** it offers a tasty prize |
| **C.** it’s free to play |
| **D.** it’s easy to win |

**5.** Based on the earnings from the chocolate throw, the number of throws made last year was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** 50 | **B.** 1,200 | **C.** 800 | **D.** 400 |

## Part 2: You will hear a radio report about a new type of air transport. For questions 6–10, choose the answer (A, B, C, or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

**6.** The company Seymour Powell developed the Aircruise concept mainly to offer travelers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ during long-distance journeys.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A.** better business efficiency | **B.** reduced ticket prices |
| **C.** faster overall flights | **D.** greater travel comfort |

**7.** The Aircruise may descend from its usual cruising altitude when passengers have the opportunity to view \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ below the aircraft.

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** dangerous weather requiring immediate emergency landing |
| **B.** interesting sights located on the ground surface |
| **C.** higher speeds needed for more efficient travel |
| **D.** low-traffic regions allowing smoother navigation paths |

**8.** Hydrogen, the airship’s primary power source, allows the Aircruise to provide passengers with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the journey.

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** on-board electrical power and fresh drinking water |
| **B.** cooler passenger cabins and purified atmospheric oxygen |
| **C.** maximum operational speed and improved flight stability |
| **D.** enhanced steering ability and upgraded entertainment features |

**9.** A major Korean company became interested in the Aircruise project because it specialises in producing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** innovative electronic products commonly needed by consumers |
| **B.** complex manufactured equipment used in home environments |
| **C.** high-quality modern devices for everyday domestic use |
| **D.** a wide range of technologically advanced household appliances |

**10.** The speaker’s final remark implies that Aircruise tickets will likely be priced at a level that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** is reduced through corporate financial sponsorship |
| **B.** starts high but becomes cheaper over time |
| **C.** makes them unaffordable for most travelers |
| **D.** remains competitive to attract more customers |

## Part 3: You will hear an interview with a woman called Emma Stoneham, who works as a manager in the horse racing industry. For questions 11–15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

**11.** What does Emma say about her qualifications?

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** She did a postgraduate course that few people knew about. |
| **B.** She was fortunate to be accepted on a specialist course. |
| **C.** She chose to study certain subjects against her father’s wishes. |
| **D.** She decided to do courses that dealt directly with horse racing. |

**12.** How does Emma feel about what she calls the “big names” in horse racing?

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** She accepts that she needs to put on particular events to attract them. |
| **B.** She resents having to plan her events to suit them. |
| **C.** She believes that they shouldn’t receive special treatment. |
| **D.** She respects the contribution they make to the sport. |

**13.** What does Emma particularly enjoy about race days?

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** the enthusiasm of her colleagues |
| **B.** the range of people she meets |
| **C.** the pleasure of seeing people enjoying themselves |
| **D.** the challenge of dealing with the unexpected |

**14.** How did Emma feel after cancelling the midwinter race meeting?

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** grateful for the good advice she’d received |
| **B.** worried that inadequate precautions had been taken |
| **C.** angry that bad weather hadn’t been predicted |
| **D.** satisfied that she’d made the right decision |

**15.** As a result of cancelling the meeting, Emma has had to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** postpone making improvements to facilities |
| **B.** make changes to her financial planning |
| **C.** sell some land belonging to the race-course |
| **D.** put on additional race meetings |

# II. LEXICO-GRAMMAR AND READING

## Read the following leaflet and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that fits best each of the numbered blanks from 16 to 21.

Marie Curie: Pioneering Spirit in Science and Life

Marie Sklodowska Curie’s life story **(16)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ perseverance and groundbreaking achievement. Let’s explore key aspects of her remarkable journey:

**Scientific Breakthroughs**

\*Curie’s research **(17)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ radioactivity elucidated the scientific community’s general understanding of atomic structure.

\***(18)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her groundbreaking discoveries, Curie became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.

**Humanitarian Contributions**

\*Beyond her scientific achievements, Marie Curie also applied herself with resolute commitment to humanitarian efforts.

\*During World War I, she developed **(19)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, often called “Little Curies”, which allowed battlefield surgeons to locate bullets and shrapnel more accurately.

\*Curie personally trained numerous nurses and doctors in using this technology, demonstrating her devotion not only to science but also to saving lives.

**Legacy and Impact**

\***(20)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Curie’s contributions continue to influence modern physics and chemistry.

\*Her life story exemplified the potential for women in science, **(21)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ generations of researchers.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **16.** | **A.** renovates | **B.** amplifies | **C.** represents | **D.** exaggerates |
| **17.** | **A.** with | **B.** on | **C.** about | **D.** for |
| **18.** | **A.** With a view to  **B.** On the strength of | | **B.** In place of  **D.** Regardless of | |
| **19.** | **A.** portable X-ray medical units  **B.** X-ray portable medical units  **C.** medical portable X-ray units  **D.** portable medical X-ray units | | | |
| **20.** | **A.** An amount | **B.** The amount | **C.** A great number | **D.** The number |
| **21.** | **A.** inspiring | **B.** inspire | **C.** to inspire | **D.** inspirational |

## Read the following extract from a magazine article and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that fits best each of the numbered blanks from 22 to 27.

Navigating the Ethical Labyrinth of AI

The rapid proliferation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into daily life has forced a critical, long-overdue examination of its ethical **(22)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. AI systems, particularly those powered by complex neural networks, are now capable of making decisions that directly **(23)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ human livelihoods, from loan approvals to hiring processes. As these systems become more autonomous, ensuring they operate with transparency and fairness has become an immense task for regulators.

A significant hurdle arises when AI models are trained on biased data, inevitably propagating and sometimes amplifying societal prejudices. **(24)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the “black box” nature of deep learning means that even their creators often struggle to **(25)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out how a particular decision was reached, making accountability virtually impossible.

It is essential that a robust framework for ethical oversight **(26)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before mass-market adoption. It is only when developers prioritize not just functionality but also ethical implementation that the public will truly trust these innovations; otherwise, the whole enterprise may **(27)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ flat on its face due to widespread mistrust.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **22.** | **A.** circulations | **B.** disseminations | **C.** propagations | **D.** ramifications |
| **23.** | **A.** depend on | **B.** intrude upon | **C.** pivot upon | **D.** call upon |
| **24.** | **A.** However | **B.** For example | **C.** In addition | **D.** Therefore |
| **25.** | **A.** speed | **B.** spin | **C.** speak | **D.** spell |
| **26.** | **A.** establish | **B.** is established | **C.** be established | **D.** establishing |
| **27.** | **A.** take | **B.** build | **C.** stand | **D.** fall |

## Mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions from 28 to 37.

**28.** I believe that they must have understood what you said to them about the problem, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** haven’t they | **B.** didn’t you | **C.** mustn’t they | **D.** don’t I |

**29.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we will lose clients due to the current financial climate, the company is still expected to reach its target for the quarter.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A.** Even though it appears likely that | **B.** Nevertheless likely it appears that |
| **C.** Though it likely appears that | **D.** In spite of the likelihood |

**30.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Stevenson’s landscapes, the more vitality and character the painting seems to possess.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A.** The looser the brushwork is | **B.** The loose brushwork is |
| **C.** The brushwork is loose | **D.** The looser brushwork |

**31.** Round and round \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A.** did the wheels of the engine go | **B.** the wheels of the engine went |
| **C.** going the wheels of the engine | **D.** went the wheels of the engine |

**32.** - Tom: “I thought your performance last Sunday was wonderful.”

- Laura: “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** No doubt! |
| **B.** You must be kidding. It was not as good as I had expected. |
| **C.** I completely agree with you. It was terrific. |
| **D.** Don’t tell a lie. I thought it was terrible. |

**33.** She always explored every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a business deal.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A.** lock, stock and barrel | **B.** hook and sinker |
| **C.** nook and cranny | **D.** step and stop |

**34.** I’ve been doing my best to reduce the backlog but I must admit that I’ve hardly put \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the problem so far.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** a dent | **B.** a damper | **C.** a foot | **D.** a brave face |

**35.** Many people see supermarkets as great contributors to the economy of this area without realizing that they are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ local stores.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** squeezing out | **B.** bringing out | **C.** tidying over | **D.** forcing down |

**36.** The grant will be paid in three equal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over the course of the year.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** occurrences | **B.** episodes | **C.** installments | **D.** inversions |

**37.** Jacobin cuckoo is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of monsoon.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** forerunner | **B.** harbinger | **C.** herald | **D.** premonition |

## Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that fits best each of the numbered blanks from 38 to 42.

In today’s hyperconnected society, the constant presence of smartphones, laptops, and social media platforms has blurred the line between work and leisure. Notifications appear at all hours, **(38)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and endless scrolling quietly consumes time that might otherwise be devoted to rest or reflection. A digital detox—the deliberate break from screens and online interactions - has therefore become more than a passing trend. It is increasingly viewed as a response to digital fatigue, a phenomenon marked by anxiety, distraction, and reduced concentration.

Moreover, the benefits of such a detox can be surprisingly tangible. Individuals often report improved sleep, stronger focus, **(39)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Families, too, notice changes: conversations become livelier, meals last longer, and shared activities regain importance. **(40)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Yet challenges remain. Because technology is woven into education, employment, and entertainment, many find it difficult to disconnect fully, and some fear that missing updates could cost them social connections or jobs.

Nevertheless, short digital breaks, though modest, can offer remarkable relief. Weekend retreats in nature, where phones are left behind, remind people of slower rhythms. Workplaces, by introducing “no-email evenings” and regulations **(41)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, encourage healthier boundaries. Even small choices—silencing notifications, setting screen-time limits, or designating phone-free hours—help reclaim attention. A digital detox, once dismissed as impractical, is now being reconsidered as a vital practice, a safeguard against overload and a path towards mindful living. Ultimately, it shows that **(42)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**38.**

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** emails demand instant replies |
| **B.** how to reply emails instantly |
| **C.** the demand of instant email replies |
| **D.** replies demand emails instantly |

**39.**

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** however, their stability of emotion is becoming greater and greater |
| **B.** whereas their emotion is becoming greatly stable |
| **C.** but their stability of emotion is becoming greater and greater |
| **D.** and greater emotional stability |

**40.**

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** In fact, stepping away from digital devices reduces stress, strengthens bonds, restores balance, and revives creativity. |
| **B.** For example, stepping away from digital devices neither reduces stress nor strengthens bonds, restores balance, and revives creativity. |
| **C.** At the same time, reducing stress, strengthening bonds, restoring balance, and reviving creativity result in stepping away from digital devices. |
| **D.** In general, digital devices can not escalate our stress, make our generation gaps bigger. |

**41.**

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** requiring face-to-face interactions with each other frequently |
| **B.** require face-to-face interactions with each other habitually |
| **C.** required face-to-face interactions consistently |
| **D.** face-to-face interactions will be regularly required |

**42.**

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** technology is very important; as a result, rest, reflection, and human connection are equally indispensable |
| **B.** whether technology is fundamental or rest, reflection, and human connection are vital |
| **C.** not only is technology crucial but rest, reflection, and human connection are imperative as well |
| **D.** either the vitality of technology reflected in rest or human connection is equally essential |

## Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best answer to each of the following questions from 43 to 50.

In an era defined by intensifying climatic volatility, the escalating frequency and severity of flood events represent a formidable challenge to global economic stability and poverty reduction efforts. The World Bank frequently emphasizes that while high-income nations possess the requisite fiscal buffers and sophisticated infrastructure to absorb and recover from acute disasters, developing and low-income countries bear a disproportionately heavy burden. Beyond the immediate, visible costs of damaged infrastructure and agricultural output, floods impose enduring macroeconomic consequences, including disruptive supply chain externalities, inflationary pressures on essential goods, and significant diversions of sovereign capital from critical public investment, such as education and healthcare, towards emergency recovery and reconstruction initiatives. **Addressing this vulnerability is not merely a humanitarian concern but an essential component of sustainable development policy**.

The core challenge for developing economies lies in the nexus between rapid, often unplanned, urbanization and inadequate protective infrastructure. Coastal cities and burgeoning urban centers situated in floodplains face exposure risks that are compounded by population density and structural deficiencies in drainage systems. From a developmental perspective, these events trigger regressive economic impacts, as the poorest and most marginalized communities, lacking both insurance coverage and robust housing, suffer the greatest loss of assets and livelihoods. Consequently, frequent flooding can **precipitate** a cycle of indebtedness and poverty, undermining decades of developmental progress and jeopardizing the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to poverty eradication and climate action. This necessitates a strategic shift from reactive post-disaster response to proactive risk management and mitigation.

Effective flood **resilience**, therefore, must be structurally integrated into national development planning. This paradigm shift demands substantial upfront investment in “gray” infrastructure, such as improved river defenses and modern drainage networks, complemented by “green” solutions, including the restoration of natural floodplains, mangroves, and wetlands. The World Bank advocates for strengthening institutional capacity, and it does so through promoting advanced early warning systems and comprehensive land-use regulation to discourage construction in high-risk zones. Crucially, leveraging digital technology for real-time flood mapping and risk modeling can optimize the allocation of limited resources, ensuring that capital spending is geographically targeted for maximum protective impact and cost-effectiveness. **This** is, therefore, essential for successful mitigation efforts.

Ultimately, building resilience against catastrophic flooding is an economic imperative that yields high returns. By investing strategically in mitigation and adaptive infrastructure, nations can safeguard their physical capital, protect human capital, and secure long-term fiscal stability. For the World Bank, fostering this resilience involves facilitating access to innovative financial instruments, such as disaster risk insurance and catastrophe bonds, to transfer risk away from national budgets. Such comprehensive, risk-informed development policies are vital not only to minimize future devastation but to ensure that economic growth remains resilient, inclusive, and sustainable in the face of an ever-changing climate.

(Adapted from *the report of GFDRR, World Bank*)

**43.** The word **precipitate** in paragraph 2 is **CLOSEST** in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** spark off | **B.** result from | **C.** catch up on | **D.** hinge on |

**44.** Which of the following macroeconomic consequences of flooding is **NOT** explicitly mentioned in the passage?

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** Supply chain disturbances extending beyond the immediate disaster zone. |
| **B.** The diversion of public funds from sectors like education and healthcare. |
| **C.** Widespread capital flight and severe currency devaluation. |
| **D.** Sustained increases in the general price level of consumer goods. |

**45.** The word **resilience** in paragraph 3 is **OPPOSITE** in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** resistance | **B.** flexibility | **C.** buoyancy | **D.** defeatism |

**46.** The pronoun **This** in the last sentence of paragraph 3 refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** protective impact | **B.** capital spending | **C.** risk modeling | **D.** cost-effectiveness |

**47.** Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 1?

**Addressing this vulnerability is not merely a humanitarian concern but an essential component of sustainable development policy.**

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** Alleviating flood susceptibility is a key factor in the enduring development strategy beyond immediate relief efforts. |
| **B.** Reducing flood susceptibility is a minor policy requirement for achieving durable development apart from humanitarian relief attempts. |
| **C.** Mitigating flood vulnerability is a peripheral policy requirement for achieving durable development, extending beyond urgent relief efforts. |
| **D.** The fiscal priority of mitigating flood risk inevitably eclipses the need for addressing humanitarian aid requirements. |

**48.** Which of the following is **TRUE** according to the passage?

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** The intricacy of flood menace requires amalgamating structural “gray” with ecological “green” infrastructure solutions. |
| **B.** The underprivileged communities are better protected from flood impacts because they are often located outside high-risk urban floodplains. |
| **C.** High-income nations principally hinge on international financial instruments, like catastrophe bonds, for disaster recovery. |
| **D.** The complexity of flood risk necessitates separating structural “gray” from ecological “green” infrastructure solutions. |

**49.** In which paragraph does the writer enumerate fiscal outcomes of floods?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** Paragraph 1 | **B.** Paragraph 4 | **C.** Paragraph 3 | **D.** Paragraph 2 |

**50.** In which paragraph does the writer mention the role of digital technology in combatting flooding?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** Paragraph 1 | **B.** Paragraph 3 | **C.** Paragraph 2 | **D.** Paragraph 4 |

## Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct word or phrase that fits best each of the numbered blanks from 51 to 60.

The More Time, The Less Responsibility

After a long time **(51)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ himself into public administrations, Cyril Northcote Parkinson, a British historian and book author, concluded that as an administration expanded, it would become awfully **(52)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Given the stable bureaucratic personnel **(53)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by 5–7% annually, “the amount of work needed done remained the same”.

From his practical observations and personal experience, Parkinson published the so-called Parkinson’s law, which **(54)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the very asymmetry between job performance and input resources (personnel, time, and fundings), on a The Economist **(55)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ article for its completion.

**(56)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ such a law has more to do with personnel management; especially on the structure and scope of state administrative agencies; the very **(57)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between time and job performance deduced from which also brought forward a matter of concern. Research indeed evidenced that every task assigned with comfortable deadlines would stretch out which, compared to more **(58)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ time frames.

Worse still, they even asserted that once having expanded, preoccupying the deadlines, every task would even hurt for more time to get done. A later experiment (1999), in which subjects were asked to skim through four sets of images given a restricted time frame. Strikingly enough, once getting informed of skipping the fourth, they, however, **(59)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more time fiddling with the third instead of getting it done **(60)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In another experiment that got the participants to count characters in several phrases, the findings was that assigning those with more time did hardly shape up the accuracy of memorizing task, nor was it of any help in solving a sudden test afterwards.

(Adapted from *MonsterBox*)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **51.** | **A.** condensing | **B.** throwing | **C.** saturating | **D.** diluting |
| **52.** | **A.** slipshod | **B.** exhilarating | **C.** capricious | **D.** intangible |
| **53.** | **A.** upshot | **B.** upkeep | **C.** upsurge | **D.** uptake |
| **54.** | **A.** shrugged off | **B.** flaked out | **C.** blasted off | **D.** fleshed out |
| **55.** | **A.** chaffing | **B.** paradoxical | **C.** satirical | **D.** burlesques |
| **56.** | **A.** For reason that | **B.** Given that | **C.** Assuming that | **D.** On grounds that |
| **57.** | **A.** attachment | **B.** intermingle | **C.** pertinence | **D.** interplay |
| **58.** | **A.** egregious | **B.** dire | **C.** grievous | **D.** rigorous |
| **59.** | **A.** splurged | **B.** overdosed | **C.** expended | **D.** exerted |
| **60.** | **A.** every step of the way  **C.** right off the bat | | **B.** in the same vein  **D.** all in good time | |

## Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best answer to each of the following questions from 61 to 70.

The pristine beaches of Koh Rong have long drawn tourists seeking an authentic glimpse of Cambodia’s coastal life, offering a blend of natural beauty and cultural familiarity that has traditionally supported the island’s economy. **Yet beneath the surface of this seeming paradise, a complex dynamic unfolds**. Local businesses, who thrive on traditional tourism, now navigate the rising tide of voluntourism—a phenomenon reshaped by demand for more meaningful experiences. [**I**]

In the narrow streets of the fishing village, “volunteer houses” have proliferated at an unprecedented rate. These establishments, charging participants substantial fees for the privilege of teaching English or conducting marine conservation work, generate revenue streams that bypass traditional community structures. [**II**] Market vendors, whose daily income previously averaged $75, now report earnings below $45 as volunteers, housed in all-inclusive compounds, rarely venture into local establishments. Local restaurants have adapted by offering international menus, though many struggle to attract volunteer residents who receive meals within their compounds.

The marine conservation sector particularly exemplifies this shifting landscape. Professional dive operators previously employed 45 local guides, paying certification fees exceeding $2,000 per person. Currently, they maintain only 15 positions as volunteer programs offer free diving services. These programs contribute valuable reef monitoring data, collecting over 1,000 marine species records annually. [**III**] Local dive masters, having invested years in certification and training, find **their** expertise commanding lower wages—dropping from $60 to $35 per dive session in areas with high volunteer presence.

Cultural preservation initiatives face similar patterns. Traditional craft workshops, which once hosted 200 weekly visitors at $25 per session, now average 80 participants despite reducing fees to $15. While volunteer programs record 300 weekly participants in craft activities, their standardized sessions run 30 minutes compared to traditional three-hour workshops. Master craftsmen, whose techniques typically require two years to master, observe volunteers teaching simplified versions learned in two-week orientations.

[**IV**] The education sector presents perhaps the most nuanced picture. Local schools receiving volunteer teachers report improved English test scores, rising 25% on average. However, student performance fluctuates up to 40% with each teaching transition. Established language centers have reduced staff from twenty to twelve instructors, as enrollment declined by 35% following the introduction of free volunteer-taught classes. “We’re seeing repeated adjustments in teaching methods,” notes headmaster Chan, highlighting monthly changes in classroom approaches.

Local authorities aim to **turn the tide** through regulatory frameworks, requiring volunteer organizations to demonstrate measurable community benefits. Economic data shows $2 million invested in volunteer facilities in 2023, while traditional business revenue dropped 28%. Community surveys indicate 60% of local enterprises have modified their business models, with 45% reporting reduced profitability despite these adaptations. Local leaders fear the shift may cause **irretrievable** damage to the traditional economy and cultural practices on the island.

**61.** Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 1?

**Yet beneath the surface of this seeming paradise, a complex dynamic unfolds.**

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** Behind the picturesque surroundings develops an intricate web of cultural transitions. |
| **B.** Under the appealing destination lies a thorny shifting pattern affecting the local communities. |
| **C.** Beneath the welcoming atmosphere exists a deeper running divide between old and new systems. |
| **D.** Within the harmonious environment emerges a complicated dynamic of community structures |

**62.** Where in the passage does the following sentence best fit?

**This reformation of the economy has created ripples through the community’s traditional income channels.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** [II] | **B.** [I] | **C.** [IV] | **D.** [III] |

**63.** The word **their** in paragraph 3 refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** volunteer programs |
| **B.** marine species |
| **C.** certification fees |
| **D.** local dive masters |

**64.** According to paragraph 3, which of the following is **NOT** mentioned regarding marine conservation programs?

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** number of marine species recorded |
| **B.** diving service fees |
| **C.** tourist fulfillment levels |
| **D.** alterations in guide employment |

**65.** Which of the following best summarizes paragraph 4?

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** Rising volunteer participation has upset traditional teaching models. |
| **B.** Simplified craft sessions encroach upon both workshop income and skill preservation. |
| **C.** Workshop formats have evolved to match changing participant demands. |
| **D.** Craft volunteer activities promote both workshop revenue and cultural preservation. |

**66.** According to the passage, which of the following is **TRUE**?

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** Professional dive operators hire exclusively from the surrounding communities. |
| **B.** Volunteer houses provide comprehensive meals outside their accommodation sites. |
| **C.** Local restaurants maintain traditional menus despite changing tourist preferences. |
| **D.** Traditional craft workshops lower their original participation fee. |

**67.** The phrase **turn the tide** in paragraph 6 could be replaced by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A.** tackle problems | **B.** converse inclinations |
| **C.** discourage trends | **D.** change directions |

**68.** The word **irretrievable** in paragraph 6 is **CLOSEST** in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A.** inexorable | **B.** perpetual | **C.** incontrovertible | **D.** hostile |

**69.** Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

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| **A.** Local instructors gradually lose authority as temporary teaching methods predominate. |
| **B.** Volunteer programs accidentally destabilize established professional certification standards. |
| **C.** Volunteer programs deliberately undermine traditional specialised certification standards. |
| **D.** Traditional businesses systematically alter their services to accommodate new demands. |

**70.** Which of the following best summarizes the passage?

|  |
| --- |
| **A.** The emergence of volunteer tourism in Koh Rong demonstrates how traditional economies adapt to new market forces while maintaining cultural authenticity through regulatory oversight. |
| **B.** The evolution of tourism patterns in coastal communities reveals how volunteer initiatives can both enhance and challenge existing social and economic structures. |
| **C.** The transformation of local business landscapes through volunteer tourism illustrates the complex interplay between economic opportunities and community preservation efforts. |
| **D.** The execution of volunteer tourism programs has multifaceted impacts on traditional economies, requiring communities to balance potential benefits against established practices. |

# SECTION B: WRITING (30 points)

## I. Letter writing (10 points)

You are planning to travel to a foreign country for a vacation and would like to inquire about accommodation options and local attractions.

**Write a letter to a tourist information center in the destination country. In your letter,**

- Ask about the types of accommodation available for tourists (hotels, hostels, vacation rentals, etc.).

- Ask about popular tourist attractions or landmarks in the area.

- Request information about transportation options for getting around the city or region.

Write a letter in about 120–150 words. You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

*Dear Sir/ Madam,*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*Yours faithfully,*

## II. Essay writing (20 points)

Write an essay of about 250–300 words on the following topic.

***“Some people believe that electric vehicles bring some certain benefits, while others think that they are not truly sustainable in the long term.”***

Discuss both views and give your own opinions.

Give reasons and relevant examples to support your answer.

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