

# 2007 National English Contest for College Students

(Level A - Preliminary)

## Part I Listening Comprehension (25 minutes, 30 points)

**Section A:** In this section, you will hear 6 short conversations. At the end of each conversation, a question will be asked about what was said. Both the conversation and the question will be read only once. After each question, there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the three choices marked A, B and C, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre. (6 points)

- |   |                         |                   |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A. Work in the garden.                           | B. Go to the beach.     | C. Watch TV.      |
| 2. A. £78.  | B. £39.                 | C. £36.           |
| 3. A. A book.                                       | B. A film.              | C. An exhibition. |
| 4. A. The item is more expensive than she expected. |                         |                   |
| B. The item has been seriously damaged.             |                         |                   |
| C. The item obviously doesn't serve her purpose.    |                         |                   |
| 5. A. Excited.                                      | B. Annoyed.             | C. Worried.       |
| 6. A. It will be fun.                               | B. It will be too long. |                   |
| C. It will be boring.                               |                         |                   |

**Section B:** In this section, you will hear one long conversation. The conversation will be read only once. At the end of the conversation, there will be a one-minute pause. During the pause, you must read the four questions, each with three choices marked A, B and C, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre. (4 points)

Questions 7–10 are based on the long conversation you have just heard.

7. How long does it take the man to get to work every morning?  
A. Nearly an hour.                      B. Half an hour.                      C. More than an hour.
8. Why does the man skip breakfast?  
A. He's not hungry in the mornings.                      B. He doesn't have time for it.  
C. He thinks what nutrition experts say is rubbish.
9. What does the woman suggest the man do?  
A. Plan his time better.                      B. Have a sandwich upon arrival at work.  
C. Eat more at lunch time.
10. What do the speakers decide to do?  
A. Grab something to eat together.                      B. Buy a pack of biscuits for lunch.  
C. Treat themselves to a nice meal.

**Section C:** In this section, you will hear 10 short news items. After each item, there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the question and the three choices marked A, B and C, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre. (10 points)

11. What's the nationality of those who died in a western Oklahoma accident?  
A. Canadian.                      B. American.                      C. Mexican.
12. How many Angolan families have been evicted in the past six years?  
A. About 10,000 families.                      B. About 1,000 families.  
C. About 100,000 families.
13. Which country was the destination of the smuggled uranium 238?  
A. Iran.                      B. Tanzania.  
C. The Democratic Republic of Congo.
14. Why did the Guinean youths go on a demonstration?  
A. To combat military intervention.                      B. To support the striking workers.  
C. To protest against the local media.
15. Where was Henry Tombek assaulted?  
A. In Tamworth.                      B. In Sydney.                      C. In Sudan.

16. How long did the ASEAN's separate summit meeting last?  
A. One day.                      B. Two days.                      C. Three days.
17. What does the news item say about Senator Obama?  
A. He won't take part in the presidential election campaign.  
B. He is the only African-American in the U.S. Senate.  
C. He is the most popular politician among African-Americans.
18. What is the average age in South Asians for heart attack?  
A. 58 or 59.                      B. 45 or 46.                      C. 53 or 54.
19. How did President Thabo Mbeki react to the reports of the succession battle?  
A. By creating a scene of unity.  
B. By avoiding encountering the media.  
C. By recommending a successor he trusts.
20. What award did the film Babel get?  
A. The Golden Globe for best director.  
B. The Golden Globe for best dramatic picture.  
C. The Golden Globe for best actor.

**Section D:** In this section, you will hear one passage once. You are required to make some necessary notes when you listen to it. After you hear the passage, you should complete the summary below using the exact words you hear from the recording, not exceeding three words in each blank. Remember to write the answers on the Answer Sheet. (10 points)

An (21) \_\_\_\_\_, giving information on more than three quarters of the actors (22) \_\_\_\_\_ in Britain, is now available on CD-ROM. Some theatrical (23) \_\_\_\_\_ have over 500 actors on their (24) \_\_\_\_\_ and it is difficult to remember all their (25) \_\_\_\_\_. The database lists information on over 5,500 actors and can be searched for details such as past (26) \_\_\_\_\_ they have appeared in, (27) \_\_\_\_\_ they might have, and even the colour of their eyes. The database can quickly locate persons with (28) \_\_\_\_\_ and, although some actors feel it is too impersonal to be of much use, it is certain to change the way actors are chosen for parts in (29) \_\_\_\_\_. Ring the following telephone number for further enquiries about the (30) \_\_\_\_\_: 0171-379-6000.

## Part II Vocabulary and Structure (10 minutes, 15 points)

There are 15 incomplete sentences in this part. For each blank there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one that best completes the sentence. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

31. Email newsletter marketing is more cost-effective than \_\_\_\_\_ any other form of marketing that a firm does.  
A. really                      B. utterly                      C. practically                      D. specially
32. I think my problems at work \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that I never really wanted to go into accountancy as a career.  
A. bring back                      B. stir up                      C. lie behind                      D. spring from
33. The bill, which was approved in its first reading, bans tobacco advertising in the media, \_\_\_\_\_ sponsorship of public events by tobacco producers.  
A. and so does                      B. nor was its                      C. as well as                      D. and might as well
34. \_\_\_\_\_ with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.  
A. No matter who is careless                      B. Whoever is careless  
C. He is careless                      D. As is careless
35. That week's talent included a spectacular dance team from Argentina, a popular rock group, a top vocalist and a magician \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. which made everything in sight disappear  
B. that was making all at sight disappear  
C. who made all at sight to disappear                      D. who made everything in sight disappear
36. I spent all the winter break with my friends. Not a single day \_\_\_\_\_ a few hours to myself.  
A. I had                      B. did I have                      C. had I                      D. I was having
37. I'm sorry you've decided not to go with us on the river trip, but \_\_\_\_\_ you change your mind, there will still be enough room on the boat for you.  
A. even though                      B. nevertheless                      C. in the event that                      D. provided if
38. When I first arrived here to take up my new job, I stayed in a hotel, but I soon started looking for a permanent \_\_\_\_\_, a place to \_\_\_\_\_ my own.  
A. residence; call                      B. accommodation; refer  
C. household; be                      D. habitation; say
39. So, \_\_\_\_\_, there remains a fundamental question: at what precise time does life

begin?

- A. everything been considered                      B. all being considered  
C. all to be considered                              D. all things considered

40. What is learned in books cannot have the same deep effect on a child's character \_\_\_\_\_ is learned through experience.

- A. as                      B. as what                      C. that                      D. like what

41. \_\_\_\_\_ she disliked the idea of marriage, she knew that political reasons might make it necessary.

- A. Much as                      B. As much                      C. Much though                      D. Though much

42. For security reasons, always log \_\_\_\_\_ when you leave your computer unattended for any period of time.

- A. on                      B. up                      C. in                      D. out

43. The teacher was worried about the play her young class was putting on for the parents but, fortunately, everything \_\_\_\_\_ off without any problems.

- A. passed                      B. took                      C. called                      D. walked

44. Tom: Hurry up – we haven't got much time – we're going to be late.

Jerry: Don't worry. \_\_\_\_\_. The train doesn't leave for fifteen minutes, and there isn't much traffic on the road.

Tom: I know, but we've got to park the car first and at this time in the morning there probably isn't much space in the car park.

Jerry: \_\_\_\_\_. I'm sure there'll still be a few places left.

- A. Leave it to me; Don't be silly                      B. Do trust me; Take your time  
C. There's plenty of time; Take it easy                      D. Let me see; Don't be ridiculous

45. Receptionist: Hello, Skip's Gym. This is Kathy speaking. \_\_\_\_\_?

Caller: Hi. I've just seen your advert in the local paper. Could I speak to someone about becoming a member?

Receptionist: Certainly. \_\_\_\_\_?

Caller: OK. Dainty, Luke Dainty.

- A. How do you do; Your phone number, please  
B. How can I help; Can I have your name, please  
C. Any problem; What's your exercise item  
D. Anything I can do for you; Are you a local resident

### Part III IQ Test (5 minutes, 5 points)

There are 5 IQ Test questions in this part. For each question there are 4 choices

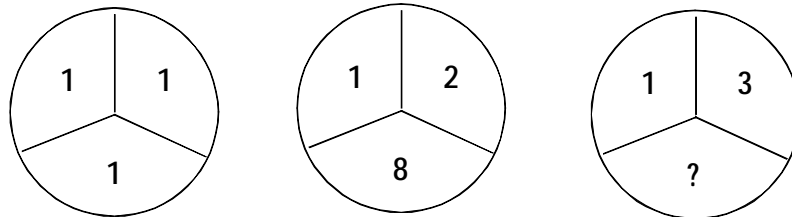
marked A, B, C and D. Mark your answer on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

46. Which word completes the sentence?

Controversy is to quarrel as agreement is to...

- A. joy                      B. concord                      C. satisfaction                      D. agony

47. Find the missing number.



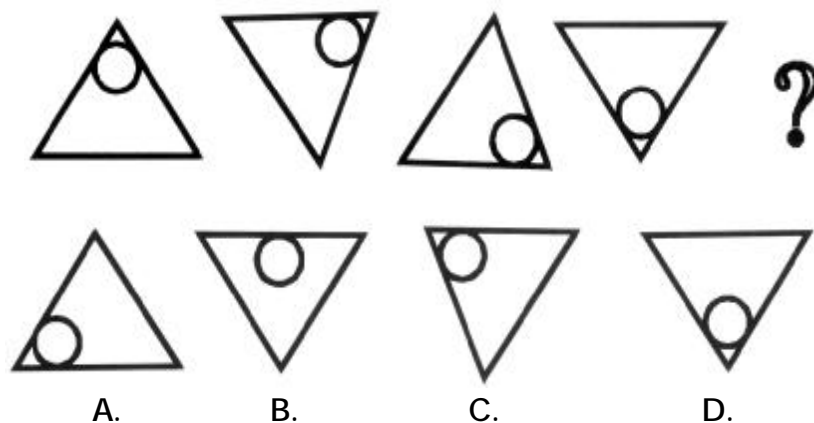
- A. 15.                      B. 9.                      C. 27.                      D. 29.

48. Different foods are to be found on three shelves in a fridge. Butter is kept below the eggs while cheese is kept above the milk. The butter is also above the milk, but the eggs are on the same shelf as the yoghurt. The ice cream is above the cheese.

What is on the bottom shelf?

- A. Butter.                      B. Eggs.                      C. Cheese.                      D. Milk.

49. You are given a series of pictures. Your task is to see their relationship to each other, then work out which will be the next figure in the series. You have to choose one from the four possible answers provided.



50. Two aeroplanes are flying straight towards each other. One is traveling at 10 kilometres per minute, and the other at 15 kilometres per minute. Assuming that the planes are exactly 1,000 kilometres apart, what distance will be between them one minute

before they crash into each other?

- A. 10 kilometres.    B. 15 kilometres.    C. 25 kilometres.    D. 5 kilometres.

## Part IV Reading Comprehension (25 minutes, 40 points)

**Section A:** There is one passage in this section with 7 questions. For each question, there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre. (7 points)

Questions 51–57 are based on the following passage.

Harry Houdini, who died in 1927, was the entertainment phenomenon of the ragtime era. He could escape from chains and padlocks, from ropes and canvas sacks. They put him in a strait-jacket and hung him upside down from a skyscraper and he somehow untied himself. They tied him up in a locked packing case and sank him in Liverpool docks. Minutes later he surfaced smiling. They locked him in a zinc-lined Russian prison van and he emerged leaving the doors locked and the locks undamaged. They padlocked him in a milk churn full of water and he burst free. They put him in a coffin, screwed down the lid, and buried him and.., well, no, he didn't pop up like a mole, but when they dug him up more than half an hour later, he was still breathing.



Houdini would usually allow his equipment to be examined by the audience. The chains, locks and packing cases all seemed perfectly genuine, so it was tempting to conclude that he possessed superhuman powers. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes was the very paragon of analytical thinking but Conan Doyle believed that Houdini achieved his tricks through spiritualism. Indeed, he wrote to the escapologist imploring him to use his psychic powers more profitably for the common good instead of just prostituting his talent every night at the Alhambra. However, Houdini repeatedly denounced spiritualism and disclaimed any psychic element to his act.

The alternative explanation for his feats of escapism was that Houdini could do unnatural things with his body. It is widely held that he could dislocate his shoulders to escape from strait-jackets, and that he could somehow contract his wrists in order to escape from

handcuffs. His ability to spend long periods in confined spaces is cited as evidence that he could put his body into suspended animation, as Indian fakirs are supposed to do.

This is all nonsense. If you ever find yourself in a strait-jacket, it's difficult to imagine anything less helpful than a dislocated shoulder. Contracting your wrists is not only unhelpful but, frankly, impossible because the bones of your wrist are very tightly packed together and the whole structure is virtually incompressible. As for suspended animation, the trick of surviving burial and drowning relies on the fact that you can live for short periods on the air in a confined space. The air shifted by an average person in a day would occupy a cube just eight feet square. The build-up of carbon monoxide tends to pollute this supply, but, if you can relax, the air in a coffin should keep you going for half an hour or so.

In other words, there was nothing physically remarkable about Houdini except for his bravery, dexterity and fitness. His nerve was so cool that he could remain in a coffin six feet underground until they came to dig him up. His fingers were so strong that he could undo a buckle or manipulate keys through the canvas of a strait-jacket or a mail bag. He made a comprehensive study of locks and was able to conceal lock-picks about his person in a way which fooled even the doctors who examined him. When they locked him in the prison van he still had a hacksaw blade with which to saw through the joins in the metal lining and get access to the planks of the floor. As an entertainer he combined all this strength and ingenuity with a lot of trickery. His stage escapes took place behind a curtain with an orchestra playing to disguise the banging and sawing. The milk churn in which he was locked had a double lining so that, while the lid was locked onto the rim, the rim was not actually attached to the churn. Houdini merely had to stand up to get out. The mail sack he cut open at the seam and sewed up with similar thread. The bank safe from which he emerged had been secretly worked on by his mechanics for 24 hours before the performance.

All Houdini's feats are eminently explicable, although to explain them, even now, is a kind of heresy. Houdini belongs to that band of mythical supermen who, we like to believe, were capable of miracles and would still be alive today were it not for some piece of low trickery. It's said of Houdini that a punch in his belly when he wasn't prepared for it caused his burst appendix. Anatomically, it's virtually impossible that a punch could puncture your gut, but the story endures. Somehow the myth of the superman has an even greater appeal than the edifice of twenty-first century logic.



## Questions:

51. In the first paragraph, what does the writer say Houdini managed to do?
- A. Jump upside down from a skyscraper.
  - B. Safely escape from a submerged box.
  - C. Break the locks of a prison van from inside.
  - D. Escape from a buried coffin unhurt.
52. The writer mentions Houdini's burial alive to show that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. his tricks sometimes went disastrously wrong
  - B. he was not always able to do what he claimed he could
  - C. he was capable of extraordinary feats of survival
  - D. his fear of confined spaces could readily be overcome
53. The writer suggests that Conan Doyle \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. was less analytical about Houdini than one might have expected
  - B. asked Houdini if he could include him in a Sherlock Holmes story
  - C. felt that Houdini could make more money in other ways
  - D. thought there were scientific explanations for Houdini's feats
54. The writer comes to the conclusion that Houdini \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. had an unusual bone structure
  - B. could make parts of his body smaller
  - C. could make himself fall asleep easily
  - D. was not physically abnormal
55. It appears that Houdini was able to escape from a strait-jacket by \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. hiding a lock-pick in his pocket
  - B. undoing its buckles with his fingers
  - C. cutting the canvas with a hacksaw
  - D. using a blade he had concealed
56. The writer states that when Houdini escaped from the milk churn \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the role of the orchestra was important
  - B. he made use of the hacksaw to free himself
  - C. the container had been modified beforehand
  - D. he was in full sight of the audience
57. According to the writer, how do people regard Houdini nowadays?
- A. They want to hear the scientific explanations for his feats.
  - B. They prefer to believe that he had extraordinary powers.
  - C. They refuse to believe the story of how he died.
  - D. They doubt the fact that he ever really existed.

**Section B:** In this section, there is one passage followed by 7 statements. Go over the passage quickly and mark the answers on the Answer Sheet. For questions 58–64, mark  
Y (for Yes) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;  
N (for No) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;  
NG (for Not Given) if the information is not given in the passage. (7 points)

Questions 58–64 are based on the following passage.

The need for a satisfactory education is more important than ever before. Nowadays, without a qualification from a reputable school or university, the odds of landing that plum job advertised in the paper are considerably shortened. Moreover, one's present level of education could fall well short of future career requirements.

It is no secret that competition is the driving force behind the need to obtain increasingly higher qualifications. In the majority of cases, the urge to upgrade is no longer the result of an insatiable thirst for knowledge. The pressure is coming from within the workplace to compete with ever more qualified job applicants, and in many occupations one must now battle with colleagues in the reshuffle for the position one already holds.

Striving to become better educated is hardly a new concept. Wealthy parents have always been willing to spend the vast amounts of extra money necessary to send their children to schools with a perceived educational edge. Working adults have long attended night schools and refresher courses. Competition for employment has been around since the curse of working for a living began. Is the present situation so very different to that of the past?

The difference now is that the push is universal and from without as well as within. A student at a comprehensive school receiving low grades is no longer as easily accepted by his or her peers as was once the case. Similarly, in the workplace, unless employees are engaged in part-time study, they may be frowned upon by their employers and peers and have difficulty even standing still. In fact, in these cases, the expectation is for careers to go backwards and earning capacity to take an appreciable nosedive.

At first glance, the situation would seem to be laudable; a positive response to the exhortations of politicians for us all to raise our intellectual standards and help improve the

level of intelligence within the community. Yet there are serious ramifications according to at least one educational psychologist. Dr. Brendan Gatsby has caused some controversy in academic circles by suggesting that a bias towards what he terms “paper excellence” might cause more problems than it is supposed to solve. Gatsby raises a number of issues that affect the individual as well as society in general.

Firstly, he believes the extra workload involved is resulting in abnormally high stress levels in both students at comprehensive schools and adults studying after working hours. Secondly, skills which might be more relevant to the undertaking of a sought-after job are being overlooked by employers not interviewing candidates without qualifications on paper. These two areas of concern for the individual are causing physical as well as emotional stress.

Gatsby also argues that there are attitudinal changes within society to the exalted role education now plays in determining how the spoils of working life are distributed. Individuals of all ages are being driven by social pressures to achieve academic success solely for monetary considerations instead of for the joy of enlightenment. There is the danger that some universities are becoming degree factories with an attendant drop in standards. Furthermore, our education system may be rewarding doggedness above creativity; the very thing tutors ought to be encouraging us to avoid. But the most undesirable effect of this academic paper chase, Gatsby says, is the disadvantage that “user pays” higher education confers on the poor, who invariably lose out to the more financially favoured.

Naturally, although there is agreement that learning can cause stress, Gatsby’s comments regarding university standards have been roundly criticised as alarmist by most educationists who point out that, by any standard of measurement, Britain’s education system overall, at both secondary and tertiary levels, is equal to that of any in the world.

### Statements:

- 58. It is impossible these days to get a good job without a qualification from a respected institution.
- 59. Most people who upgrade their qualifications do so for the joy of learning.
- 60. In some jobs, the position you hold must be reapplied for.
- 61. Some parents spend extra on their children’s education because of the prestige attached to certain schools.
- 62. According to the passage, students who performed badly at school used to be accepted

by their classmates.

63. Employees who do not undertake extra study may find their salary decreased by employers.
64. Citizens appear to have responded to the call by politicians to become better qualified.

Section C: You are going to read a magazine article. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A –G) the one which fits each gap (65–70). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the Answer Sheet. (6 points)

Questions 65–70 are based on the following passage.

One of the things young people find irritating is listening to their parents going on and on about how everything was less commercialized when they were kids. The complaint often heard from people over 35 refers to commercialization in the music industry.

Every time another girl band or boy band appears, this older generation criticizes the new group for being artificial, for not being genuine, dedicated musicians or singers. They claim that all pop groups in the 60's and the 70's were true artists, dedicated only to their music, and then suddenly big business took control. (65) \_\_\_\_\_

Older people who get nostalgic about the good old days of music, before manufactured music groups in the 1990's, should be reminded of The Archies. The Archies made no pretense of being a real band in the first place. (66) \_\_\_\_\_ But this didn't stop them from having a number one hit with a song called "Sugar Sugar", which topped the charts for four weeks in 1969.

(67) \_\_\_\_\_ Four young men answered an ad for "four folk and rock musicians to appear in a TV series " and were then packaged as The Monkees. From the outset, it was made clear that The Monkees were hired to be television actors first and musicians second. The group wouldn't do much more than sing although the series would give the impression that they played their own instruments.

The Monkees were real and, to a certain extent, musical. They had a string of hits, some very memorable. (68) \_\_\_\_\_ The original material they would sing in the series was written mostly by professional songwriters. How different to a group of real, talented individuals like The Beatles!

Well, not entirely. It is often forgotten today that the manager of The Beatles, Brian

Epstein, gave them the distinctive “Beatle look” (Beatle jackets and Beatle hairstyles) and cleverly marketed their songs. If he hadn’t done so, the band might never have had those early hits. (69) \_\_\_\_\_

Things have changed dramatically in the music industry. Managers play an important role in deciding what kind of music will appeal to specific target groups and then find singers and musicians able to produce it. For the last fifty years, pop singers and groups have had managers who shaped them in an attempt to make their records big hits. (70) \_\_\_\_\_

A. It must be obvious that this is a complete exaggeration; the music industry has always acted this way.

B. Which is hardly surprising, since the music industry is just that: an industry, aiming like all industries to make a profit.

C. Their music was performed by animated TV cartoon characters.

D. And then they would not have become the most influential rock band of the 20th century.

E. That decade also saw an American group appear that was a blatant attempt to copy the success of The Beatles.

F. However, they didn’t write any of their own material, and their manager created every aspect of their show.

G. However, it’s not true that everyone in the music business in the old days was an amateur who simply loved music.

Section D: In this section, there is one passage followed by 5 questions or unfinished statements. Read the passage carefully, then answer each question or complete each statement in a maximum of 10 words. Remember to write the answers on the Answer Sheet. (10 points)

Questions 71–75 are based on the following passage.

Venice may still be in peril. However, the city known as La Serenissima is no longer sinking, but rising.

A new study from experts appointed by the Italian environment ministry has discovered that the level of the ground surrounding St Mark’s Square – among the

lowest-lying in Venice – has been raised by half a centimetre since 1973. Several other parts of the city’s historic centre are as much as one centimetre higher.

Scientists say the city has been rising since a halt was called to the pumping of large



amounts of ground water from artesian wells running under the city. The water supplied an industrial complex at Marghera on the mainland nearby.

This had dried out the rock below and allowed Venice to sink by up to 12 cm. Since the water has begun flowing back in, the rock has swollen like a sponge, pushing up the level of the alleyways and buildings.

The Venetians will not be putting their waterproof boots away yet, though. Although the number of high water floods has remained fairly constant over the past 30 years, smaller floods have become more common.

In 1996 Venice was hit by flooding of 80 cm. or more. Changing weather patterns are to blame, as well as damage to the lagoon from erosion and a deep channel dug to allow tankers through.

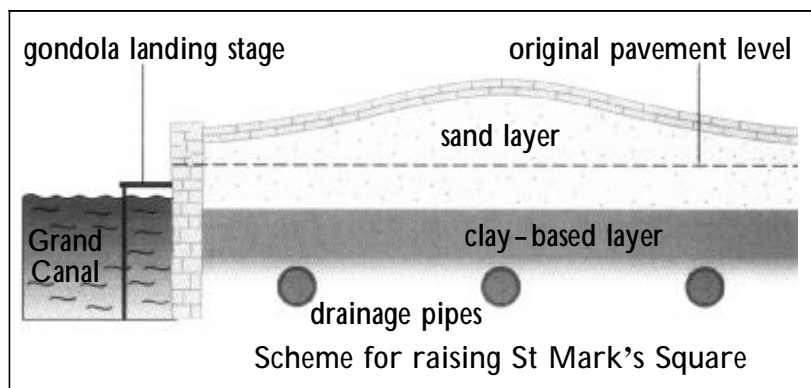
“The new study shows that Venice is not sinking the way most people believe, but of course it is still in danger,” said Giorgio Sarto, senator for Venice and an urban planner.

“The city could start subsiding again in future, and we still have to act against the flood. But we’ve lost precious time. Given the new data, we should have started trying to raise the city 10 years ago.”

Under a new scheme, the edge of St Mark’s running along the Grand Canal – which is as little as 85 cm. above sea level – would be elevated by 15 cm. to one metre above.

A section beyond would be rebuilt to slope gently upwards to a maximum height of 1.15 metres above sea level before rolling back down towards the Doge’s palace.

“Apart from restoring



the environmental balance of the lagoon,” said Maria Rosa Vittadini, who chaired the commission, “we must concentrate on raising the ground levels of the canal embankments, and of any other areas where this can be done.”

The backers of the project had originally suggested raising the whole of St Mark’s, but this was vetoed by local authorities as an unacceptable threat to the basilica, palaces and landmark bell tower around it, the level of which cannot be changed.

The last attempt to resolve Venice’s woes – the £1.5 billion Project Moses, which involved placing a 30 metre high flood barrier at three openings from the lagoon into the Adriatic – was dropped by the Italian government. There were fears that it could jeopardise the lagoon’s sensitive ecology.

“It’s an awful thing to say, but what Venice really needs is another catastrophe like the flooding of 1966,” said Lord Norwich, chairman of Britain’s Venice In Peril fund. “That would shake people into doing something. If we go on doing nothing, Venice might well not be there for our great-grandchildren.”

### Questions:

71. What encouraging sign has been observed by experts about Venice?
72. The sinking of Venice used to be caused by \_\_\_\_\_.
73. The causes of the 1996 flooding in Venice were: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and the digging of a channel to allow tankers to pass.
74. What two materials will be laid under St Mark’s Square when it is raised?
75. The suggestion of raising the whole of St Mark’s was vetoed because local authorities believed it would threaten \_\_\_\_\_.

**Section E:** In this section, there is one passage followed by a summary. Read the passage carefully and complete the summary below by choosing a maximum of three words from the passage to fill in the spaces 76 –80. Remember to write the answers on the Answer Sheet. (10 points)

Questions 76–80 are based on the following passage.

The British political scene is dominated by two major parties that have quite different

political agendas. However, the ideological distance between the Labour Party and the Conservative Party has become less marked, and their policies more difficult to tell apart in recent years. In fact, it would be true to say that both parties consist of conservative, moderate and radical elements, and therefore the general public is often perplexed about which party to vote for. Nonetheless, it is usual to find that a British voter will lean towards supporting one of these two parties and remain faithful to that party for life.

The Labour Party's manifest objective is to safeguard the interests of the common working man and woman, and, in effect, give them political representation in Parliament. The Party has always had strong connections with the trade unions, and, before coming to power, was passionately committed to the concept of a welfare society in which people who are less fortunate than others are politically and financially assisted in their quest for a more equitable slice of the economic pie. The main problem is that such socialist agendas are extremely expensive to implement and maintain, even in a comparatively wealthy country with a large working and, hence, taxpaying population base. Welfare societies tend towards bankruptcy unless government spending is kept in check. Fortunately, the present government recognises this, and has resisted reckless spending.

The Conservative Party, on the other hand, argues that the best way to ensure a fair division of wealth in the country is to allow more freedom to create it. This, in turn, means more job opportunities created, and therefore more wealth available to all. Just how the poor are to share in the distribution of this wealth (beyond being given, at least in theory, the opportunity to create it) is, however, less well understood. Practice, of course, may make nonsense of even the best theoretical intentions, and often the less politically powerful are badly catered for under governments implementing "free-for-all" policies.

It is surprising, given the current homogeneity of the two major parties, that less attention than elsewhere in Europe is paid to the smaller political parties such as the Greens and the Liberal Democrats. This may be because British voters distrust parties with platforms based around one or two major current issues alone; the Green Party, for example, is almost solely concerned with the environment. Moreover, when it comes to casting a vote, history shows that the British public tends to resist change and, thus, the status quo is maintained.



## Summary:

Two parties control the British political scene: the Labour Party and the Conservative Party. Although recently there are many similarities to be seen in their (76) \_\_\_\_\_, British voters tend to stay loyal for life to the party of their choice. The Labour Party, encouraged by the (77) \_\_\_\_\_, supports a welfare-based society, whereas the Conservative Party believes that (78) \_\_\_\_\_ to pursue the creation of wealth ensures that all will eventually benefit from the (79) \_\_\_\_\_ created. Oddly, Britons do not follow Europeans by paying much attention to smaller political parties, perhaps because their policies are based on just a few (80) \_\_\_\_\_ political issues.

## Part V Cloze (10 minutes, 10 points)

There are 10 blanks in the passage. Use the words given in the box to fill in the blanks, changing the form where necessary. Use only one word in each blank. There are two extra words which you do not need to use. Remember to write the answers on the Answer Sheet.

differ, experience, inform, little, patience, prefer, quality, rely, limit, tame, familiar, violate
--

Though bounty hunting is very dangerous work, it is a job that is not (81) \_\_\_\_\_ to men; some women are bounty hunters, too. Mackenzie Green is a woman – and a very well respected bounty hunter. In fact, she has been called “the most successful bounty hunter in the US.” Why is she so successful? She (82) \_\_\_\_\_ more on her brain than on physical strength. “A good bounty hunter uses gut feelings and people skills to pick up (83) \_\_\_\_\_ on the whereabouts of a skip,” she says. This means that she trusts her feelings about people and situations to tell if they are telling her the truth or if they are trying to hide something. She also doesn’t carry a gun. “You can’t (84) \_\_\_\_\_ a bull by hitting it with a stick,” she says. This means that violence always leads to more violence. She (85) \_\_\_\_\_ to use good people skills to get people to trust her. Then, when they (86) \_\_\_\_\_ expect it, she arrests them. When asked what (87) \_\_\_\_\_ make a good bounty hunter, Mackenzie Green has this to say, “Being a bounty hunter is difficult work; a person has to have (88) \_\_\_\_\_ in self defense, things like judo and boxing, as well as a (89) \_\_\_\_\_ with weapons. A person also must be part detective to track down the

skips, part lawyer to know what the (90) \_\_\_\_\_ state laws allow, and part actor to try and get people to give you information that they otherwise wouldn't give out. A person must also be patient and lucky."

## Part VI Translation (15 minutes, 20 points)

Section A: Translate the underlined sentences in the following passage into Chinese. Remember to write the answers on the Answer Sheet. (10 points)

Humans have lost the evolutionary race. We are born without wings. It's a crucial omission and we are making the environment pay for it.

We like to think we're the bee's knees of the natural world but we're nothing more than bumbling flatfoots. That's why kookaburras laugh and midges torment us. We are grounded for life and, in our frustration, we're wrecking the planet.

Wings might seem just fun and frippery, but they would also save the environment. If we could fly, we would not be trampling ecosystems underfoot. Natural habitats that now get bulldozed would flourish because we wouldn't need roads. There would be no demand for cars, so there wouldn't be emissions problems.

The common housefly travels 300 times its body length in one second. (91) If in a few generations we could match that, we would reach 2,000 kilometres per hour, which would make ozone-destroying aircraft and land-grabbing airports unnecessary.

Society would benefit enormously if we could fly. Our philosophy about the private ownership of land would have to change because fences would become useless. (92) Nets wouldn't stop people flying into your garden – as anyone knows who has tried in vain to keep birds out of fruit crops. And domestic rooftops would become public resting places.

The justice system would not need to guard expensive prisons because felons would simply have their wings clipped. Sports stadia would consist of only the pitch, with spectators hovering over the action. Stairs escalators and lifts would be as superfluous as bridges and tunnels. Buildings would have smaller ground plans and, instead, rise upwards, with entrance porches on every level.

(93) If we had wings, not only would we not need to plunder so much of the Earth's resources, but we'd also be better guardians of the environment. Woodland would not be cut down because trees would be vital resting places as we flitted through the troposphere.

We'd be more aware of the changes to Earth as we surveyed it daily from on high. And we'd soon appreciate any changes to air quality at all heights.

There would be some drawbacks. (94) Clothing would have to be tight and aerodynamic – but our perception of human beauty would soon change so that we'd delight at a glimpse of wings with colorful feathers. Demand for the best addresses would push the prices of mountain eyries sky-high. Electricity pylons and overhead cables would have to go. There would, inevitably, be the occasional crash landing in rush hour as soaring commuters got spun by the wing-tip vortices of others.

But it would be worth these minor hassles. The dinosaurs clearly recognised the merits of wings, and went so far as to evolve into birds. That left us to inherit the Earth – an inheritance we seem determined to fritter away.

Humans clearly have an intuitive inkling of the need to fly. It comes up again and again, in nursery tales and sophisticated mythology from all over the world.

If we had evolved wings, the world would have been blessed. (95) For the sake of the planet, biologists should stop growing ears on the backs of mice and start putting feathers between our shoulders, before it's too late.

Time's running out. Must fly.

**Section B:** Translate the following sentences into English, using the words given in the brackets. Remember to write your answers on the Answer Sheet. (10 points)

96. 让我们把一部分空闲时间用来培养读书的爱好吧。(devote... to...)
97. 新政府在缩减教育预算。(cut back)
98. 我手术后苏醒过来时,一位护士陪在我身边。(come round)
99. 公共汽车站离我家很近,我一刻钟就能到公司了。(there being)
100. 水对我们来说是不可缺少的,在重要性上仅次于氧。(next to)

## Part VII Writing (30 minutes, 30 points)

### Task I (10 points)


Write a letter to the organization Sports for All in which you:

- provide some details about yourself
- say which sport you are interested in learning

- say why you would like to learn this particular sport.

# SPORTS FOR ALL

Improve your skills in football, tennis, swimming or a sport of your choice. We have a number of free sports training places to give away on our forthcoming sports training scheme. Write to us telling us about yourself and the sport you would most like to learn!



You should write about 100 words. Do not sign your own name at the end of the letter. Use “Li Ming” instead. You do not need to write the address. Now write the letter on the Answer Sheet.

## Task II (20 points)

Some people say that computers are making the world lonely and dehumanized. What is your opinion? State your opinion in no less than 160 words, and write it on the Answer Sheet.