PART ONE: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Directions: *You will hear a text* **about tourists' impressions of France** *twice. Before you listen to it, you have* ***1 minute*** *to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have* ***5 minutes*** *to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B or C. Then you will hear the text again and will have* ***1 minute*** *to check your answers.*

1. The French seem to feel inferior to foreigners.
A) True. **B) False.** **C) No information in the text.**

2. The people of France lack confidence and certainty about their future.
A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

3. French red wines are losing their popularity in Europe.
A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

4. More than half of the French take anti-depressants.
A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

5. In contrast to France, Germany and Britain do not suffer from high unemployment, economic slow-down or growing immigrant population.
A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

Directions: *You will hear a text* **about genetic engineering** *twice. Before you listen to it, you have* ***1 minute*** *to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have* ***5 minutes*** *to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B or C. Then you will hear the text again and will have* ***1 minute*** *to check your answers.*

6. Genetically modified plants have better resistance to bugs and diseases.
A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

7. Genetically engineered tomatoes are more delicious.
A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

8. Genetically modified tomatoes have tougher skin than regular ones.
A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

9. The new genes in plants might lead to toxic chemical reactions.
A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

10. Bacteria cannot mutate and adjust to new conditions.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

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Directions: *You will hear a text* **about a well-known newspaper** *twice. Before you listen to it, you have* ***2 minutes*** *to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have* ***5 minutes*** *to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B, C or D. Then you will hear the text again and will have* ***1 minute*** *to check your answers.*

11. The Guardian Weekly gives information
about A) music and arts.
B) arts, music and movies.
C) sports and politics.
D) arts and films.

12. The Guardian Weekly covers news from
A) Europe and Asia.
B) Asia and America.
C) Europe and America.
D) All over the world.

13. Nelson Mandela is mentioned in the text because
he A) used to read the Guardian Weekly.
B) stayed in prison for a long time.
C) used information from the Guardian.
D) contributed articles to the Guardian .

14. If you are a subscriber you
A) can read the Guardian Weekly only in print.
B) can read the Guardian Weekly only online.
C) can read the Guardian Weekly both in print and online.
D) will have access to former digital editions.

15. The Guardian Weekly is
published A) every day.
B) once a week. **C)**
once a month. **D)**
every four weeks.

PART TWO: READING COMPREHENSION
Directions: *Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among A, B or C, marking the answer on your answer sheet.*

Anyone observing or participating in negotiations for the first time cannot fail to be struck by the ritual of it all. The participants are extremely polite and formal; they speak slowly and deliberately and their language is full of rhetoric. One makes a point and then the other responds. Some points seem hardly relevant to the issues on the agenda. The end often comes suddenly although sometimes it is difficult to see why since nothing definite seems to have been agreed.

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There are three big problems with communication. First, negotiators may not be talking to each other, or at least not in such a way as to be understood. Frequently each side has given up on the other and is no longer attempting any serious communication with it. Instead they talk merely to impress third parties. Rather than trying to dance with their negotiating partners toward a mutually agreeable outcome, they try to trip him up. Instead of trying to talk their partner into a more constructive step, they try to talk the spectators into taking sides. Effective communication between the parties is all but impossible if each plays to the gallery.

Even if you are talking directly and clearly to them, they may not be hearing you. This constitutes the second problem in communication. Note how often people don't seem to pay enough attention to what you say. Probably equally often, you would be unable to repeat what they said. In a negotiation, you may be so busy thinking about what you are going to say next, how you are going to respond to that last point or how you are going to frame your next argument, that you forget to listen to what the other side is saying now. But if you are not hearing what the other side is saying, there is no communication.

The third communication problem is misunderstanding. What one says, the other may misinterpret. Even when negotiators are in the same room, communication from one to the other can seem like sending smoke signals in a high wind. Where the parties speak different languages, the chance for misinterpretation is even greater.

16. In order to reach a mutually agreeable decision, partners play tricks on one another.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

17. Effective communication is impossible if negotiators are trying to impress third parties.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

18. While you are thinking about what you're going to say next, you listen carefully to what the other side is saying.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

19. Negotiations over the phone are more successful than face-to-face negotiations.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

20. When the negotiating parties speak different languages, misunderstandings occur more frequently.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

Directions: *Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among A, B, C or D, marking the answer on your answer sheet.*

CHINESE GARDENS

The Chinese (Scholar's) Garden is a place for solitary or social contemplation of nature. To be considered authentic, a garden must be built and planned around seventeen essential elements among which 1) proximity to the home; 2) small; 3) walled; 4) small individual sections; 5)

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asymmetrical; 6) various types of spatial connections; 7) rocks; 8) water; 9) trees; 10) plants; 11) sculpture; 12) chimes etc.

Chinese gardens are a combination of landscape and paintings together with poems - this is the so-called "poetic garden". Many garden plants have essential symbolism. Pine trees represent wisdom, bamboo represents strength and upright morality and the lotus symbolizes purity (and is also a revered Buddhist plant). Plum trees are also extremely valuable to the Chinese for their beautiful pink and white blooms during winter. Decorative rocks are used both for structural and sculptural purposes. The goal of the design is to make the scenery beautiful, the surrounding is quiet and cool, and the landscape wonderful. Temples, resthouses and short bridges are common features. Windows frame garden views. Even the artistic designs of pavement and gravel offer enjoyment. Goldfish, carp, and mandarin ducks are three of the most commonly raised fauna.

A classical example of Chinese gardens are the gardens of Suzhou. Suzhou is located in the southeastern part of Jiangsu Province. Early sources referred to the town as "Earthly Paradise". Gardening in Suzhou reached its height during the Ming and Qing dynasties. There were over 280 private gardens then in Suzhou and landscaping became an art with established masters. Its mild climate, along with 230 frost-free days and around 1100 mm of rain annually make the area perfect for gardening endeavors. Sixty-nine gardens in and around Suzhou are preserved as important national cultural heritage sites.

21. Chinese gardens are meant
for A) long walks.
B) relaxation.
C) family parties. **D)**
social gatherings.

22. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an essential element of a Chinese garden?
A) Pools and streams.
B) Statues and stones.
C) Benches and sunshades.
D) Shrubs and flowers.

23. Most garden plants are
A) symbols of human virtues.
B) extremely expensive.
C) in blossom even in winter.
D) religious symbols.

24. Chinese gardens are designed to
be A) beautiful but artificial.
B) beautiful and peaceful.
C) beautiful but cold.
D) beautiful and simple.

25. Suzhou was called "Earthly Paradise" because of
its A) humid climate.
B) cultural heritage.
C) great art masters.
D) splendid gardens.

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Directions: *Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among A, B, C or D, marking the answer on your answer sheet.*

Communication Styles of Men and Women

The key to getting along well with others is good communication skills. This is true at home, at school, and at work. Communication is one of the biggest challenges in relationships between men and women. Researchers say that the main problem is different communication styles. Men and women have very different communication styles. Understanding the differences can help men and women communicate more effectively.

Men usually take a direct approach to a problem and suggest a solution. Men often make decisions more quickly than women. They also prefer to make decisions by themselves. Women's communication style is to discuss problems and ask other people for their opinions. Women like to talk with other people before they make a decision.

The topics of conversation are also different between men and women. Women like to discuss personal issues and talk about their feelings. Talking about problems is important in friendships for women. Even at school or on the job, women are more comfortable talking about personal topics and feelings.

Men, on the other hand, are less comfortable discussing their feelings. Many men don't like to talk about emotions and feelings. Men like to talk about what is happening in the world, business, and sports. In conversations, it is important for men to see who is the leader in the group. Men often talk about personal achievements and the important things they have done. Men build friendships by doing activities together. On the other hand, women build friendships by sharing feelings.

How do these different communication styles cause problems in relationships? There are several ways. First, women may think it is important to discuss how they feel about a problem. Men, however, prefer to come to a solution. Second, men often think that women are complaining, because women want to continue talking about their feelings. Men offer a solution to a problem, and then want to talk about something else. The third problem is that women often think that men don't want to discuss things. Actually, men just want to discuss different things. As men and women learn more about their different communication styles, they can better understand each other.

26. Men and women often talk about

A) the same things.
B) different things.
C) problems in their relationships.
D) communication styles.

27. Men prefer to talk about

A) problems.
B) solutions.
C) feelings.
D) women.

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28. Women usually

A) take more time to come to a decision than men do.
B) jump directly on conclusions.
C) are exactly as quick as men in taking a decision.
D) disregard others' opinions in taking a decision.

29. Men make friends with others by

A) sharing feelings with them.
B) discussing personal problems.
C) doing things together with them.
D) boasting of their own achievements.

30. Men and women will start communicating more effectively if

A) women stop complaining.
B) men agree to discuss problems and share their feelings.
C) they learn some communication skills.
D) they understand each other better.

PART THREE: USE OF ENGLISH

Section One: Cloze Test

Directions: *Read the text and the sentences below. For each numbered gap choose the letter (A, B, C or D) of the word or phrase that best completes each space, marking your answer on your answer sheet.*

A very popular type of reality TV is "reality-competition", or so -called "reality game shows", in which participants are filmed competing to **(31)** _____ a prize, often while living together in a **(32)** _____ environment. In many cases, participants are **(33)** _____ until only one person or team remains, who/which is then **(34)** _____ the winner. Usually this is done by eliminating participants one at a time through either **(35)** _____ voting or by voting for the most popular choice to win. Voting is done by either the viewing audience, the show's own participants, a **(36)** _____ of judges, or some combination of the three. These programs have also been called "game operas," a term **(37)** _____ by Steve Beverly, a college professor in Tennessee and webmaster of TVGameShows.net.
A well-known example of a reality-competition show is the **(38)** _____ popular *Big Brother*, in which cast members live together in the same house, with participants being eliminated from the show **(39)** _____ regular intervals by either the viewing audience or, in the case of the American version, by the participants themselves.
There **(40)** _____ some disagreement over whether talent-search shows such as *American Idol*, *Dancing with the Stars*, and *Celebrity Duets* are truly reality television, or not. Anyway, the American Primetime Emmy Awards have nominated both *American Idol* and *Dancing with the Stars* for the Outstanding Reality-Competition Programme Emmy.

31. A) attain	**B)** earn	**C)** win	**D)** gamble
32. A) confined	**B)** refined	**C)** limited	**D)** encircled
33. A) excluded	**B)** exiled	**C)** rejected	**D)** removed

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34. A) claimed	**B)** appointed	**C)** declared	**D)** promoted
35. A) disagreement	**B)** disapproval	**C)** disposal	**D)** displeasure
36. A) commission	**B)** staff	**C)** company	**D)** board
37. A) coined	**B)** thought	**C)** born	**D)** compiled
38. A) worldly	**B)** globally	**C)** totally	**D)** commonly
39. A) by	**B)** in	**C)** after	**D)** at
40. A) stands	**B)** stays	**C)** remains	**D)** resides

41. Melissa has been elected Chairman of the Students' Council for three _____ years.
A) successive **B)** successful **C)** succeeding **D)** succession

42. The company has gained popularity by their _____ range of products at competitive prices.
A) various **B)** variable **C)** wide **D)** long

43. There will be _____ two members of the jury who will vote guilty.
A) at last **B)** lastly **C)** at least **D)** in the least

44. They haven't been able to pinpoint the _____ of the boat yet.
A) situation **B)** disposition **C)** localities **D)** location

45. My latest photographs will be _____ in Venice at the end of this year.
A) exposed **B)** exhibited **C)** represented **D)** performed

Section Two: Sentence Completion

Directions: *Read the sentences and for each numbered gap, choose the letter (A, B, C or D) of the word or phrase that best completes its meaning, marking your answer on your answer sheet.*

46. _____ economy of the country is in decay.
A) An **B)** A **C)** The **D)** Some

47. The men have worked a lot_____ since they had a pay rise.
A) careful **B)** more carefully **C)** more careful **D)** carefully

48. The guide said that the castle _____ in 1265.
A) is built **B)** has been built **C)** was built **D)** have been built

49. _____ you do, don't go too near the edge of the cliff.
A) Whenever **B)** However **C)** Whatever **D)** Wherever

50. They will have finished the job _____ this time tomorrow.
A) on **B)** by **C)** until **D)** to

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Section Three: Sentence Transformations

Directions: *On your sheet for open-ended answers complete the second sentence so that it is as close as possible in meaning to the first one.*

51. "Could you help me with the suitcase, young man?" Mr Jones asked.
"Would you mind ……...

52. I don't thing letting youngsters out until midnight is good.
I don't think allowing ……

53. I was just kissing Gregory good-bye when my granny opened the front door and saw us.
My granny opened the door and saw ……..

54. He regrets he fell asleep in the middle of the show.
He shouldn't…….

55. Four suitcases of 15 kilos each are too many to take on board a plane.
60 kilos is ……luggage……

56. To swim while it's raining is great fun!
Peter enjoyed ……..

57. I never thought snow boarding could be dangerous before I broke my leg. I should have been more careful.
If ……..

58. She started her rehearsal two hours ago. The rehearsal hasn't finished yet.
She……for over two hours now.

59. Slow down! The road is under construction.
You'd …….

60. The professor is examining Peter right now so he cannot speak on the phone.
Peter……

PART FOUR: WRITING

Directions: *On your sheet for open-ended answers write a composition of about 140-170 words on **ONE** of the following topics:*

1. Describe the person who has influenced you most. What qualities of his/hers do you admire most? In what way(s) has he/she influenced you?

2. The rules I have broken. When do people break rules? What sort of people break rules? What rules have you broken – consciously or not? Why? What were the consequences, if any?

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