

PRACTICE TEST 28

LISTENING (40p)

I. You will hear a radio interview with the comedian Brian Conley, who does a considerable amount of work in panto, a type of family-friendly show which is popular at Christmas. For questions 1-5, choose the answer which fits best according to what you hear.(10p)

1. Brian likes Birmingham because:
 - A. It has provided him with a steady income
 - B. It is where he grew up
 - C. It was where he first became famous
2. When they discuss children's participation in panto, Brian says that
 - A. he prefers children not to come up on stage
 - B. it's important to get the parents' permission if a child wants to participate
 - C. he thinks that children's participation adds a certain quality to the show
3. Brian became involved in comedy because
 - A. He had wanted to do it since he was a child.
 - B. His friends at school encouraged him to do it.
 - C. He found he could earn more by doing comedy.
4. What does Brian say about providing comedy for corporate events?
 - A. It is easy because the audience has had a lot to drink.
 - B. He has learnt how to respond to comments from the audience.
 - C. It's the only way for many comedians to find work.
5. What does Brian feel with regards to nerves?
 - A. He agrees with a comment someone made early in his career
 - B. He no longer feels nervous because he is more experienced
 - C. The extent of his nerves has changed over the years

II. You will listen to a recording about a new kind of school in the U.K. Listen carefully and supply the blanks with missing information.(20p)

- The idea of Studio School comes from an organization named Young Foundation who has introduced innovations like Open University, Extended Schools, Summer Universities, School of Everything and (6) _____.
- Two problems before the idea of Studio School was found out related to:
(7) _____: not seeing any relationship between what they learned and future jobs.
Employers: complaining that kids coming out of the schools were not ready for work and did not have (8) _____.
- Cognitive skills: formal academic skills.
- Non- cognitive skills: the skills of (9) _____.
- This idea is called “Studio School” originated from the idea of a studio (10) _____.
- Characteristics of Studio School:
 - Sizes of schools: (11) _____ pupils at the age of 14 to 19 year-olds.
 - 80% of program is studied through practical project, commission to businesses and (12) _____.
 - Percentage of theoretical academic lessons: (13) _____.
- Prototyping period:
 - 2 first places where the project was carried included: Luton and Blackpool.
 - The most important result of trial phase: the pupils who were (14) _____ had jumped right to the top
 - 35 schools are expected to establish throughout England next year.
 - The main method of spreading Studio School is (15) _____.

III. You will hear a woman on a radio program interviewing a driving instructor about his job. Answer the questions .(10p)

1. Why do people want to pass the driving test quickly ?

.....

2. Does Fred have to try hard to get customers ?

.....

3. How does Fred prepare learners for their lesson?

.....

4. Why are new drivers nervous?

.....

5. When does Fred allow his pupils to drive unaided?

.....

LEXICO – GRAMMAR (50p)

I. Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence (20p).

1. When it comes to the _____, Alice always supports her friends.

- A. point B. crunch C. crisis D. finale

2. Richard started the race well but ran out of _____ in the later stages.

- A. power B. steam C. force D. effort

3. The winter is usually mild, although we sometimes get a cold _____ at the beginning of the year.

- A. spell B. term C. interval D. wave

4. Several passengers received minor injuries when the train unexpectedly came to a

- A. delay B. stand C. brake D. halt

5. It was _____ of a surprise to Andrew that he got the job.

- A. rather B. something C. quite D. much

6. Please don't _____ it a miss if I make a few suggestions for improvements.

- A. think B. assume C. take D. judge

7. He left the meeting early on the unlikely _____ that he had a sick friend to visit.

- A. claim B. excuse C. pretext D. motive

8. The girl felt _____ with hunger.

- A. faintly B. fainting C. fainted D. faint

9. My sunburnt nose made me feel rather _____ for the first few days of the holiday.

- A. self-confident B. self-centred C. self-conscious D. self-evident

10. Although the patient received intensive treatment, there was no _____ improvement in her condition.

- A. decipherable B. legible C. discernible D. intelligible

11. Nobody has any firm information, so we can only _____ on what caused the accident.

- A. guess B. contemplate C. speculate D. assume

12. Cars have been banned from the city center, which makes the area much safer for _____.

- A. passer-by B. onlookers C. footmen D. pedestrians

13. When I realized that I'd left my homework at home, I quickly _____ back to get it.

- A. crept B. dashed C. crawled D. drifted

14. The text doesn't give you the answer explicitly- you have to _____ it from the evidence.

- A. convert B. grasp C. reckon D. deduce

15. They will need time to _____ the proposals we have submitted.

- A. lash out B. scroll over C. shrivel D. mull over

16. Their decision on whether I get the job or not will be based mostly on my academic _____.

- A. credentials B. outstanding C. credits D. credibility

17. Retirement ages for men and women are currently at the center of a(n) _____ debate.

- A. scorching B. fiery C. flamed D. exploded

18. The new science teacher was popular because she was _____ with her classes.

- A. lenient B. conductive C. marked D. ameliorating

19. If she wins the prize again this year, it'll be a real _____ in her cap.

- A. nutshell B. gemstone C. feather D. landmark

20. The inn owner was so generous. What we consumed was _____ the house.

- A. on B. in C. off D. of

Your answers:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.

II. Write the correct form of the word given in the brackets. (10point)

Passage 1.

My time in China had given me an enduring interest in Chinese art, so I decided to go to Liu Li Chang, where for centuries there has been an antiques market. Unfortunately, many things for sale there nowadays are modern (1.IMITATE)_____. Empty - handed and somewhat (2.ILLUSION)_____, I went into a tea house and sat through the usual ceremony,

but there were (3.IDENTIFY) _____ differences here too: it seemed quicker and the tea lacked that extraordinary lingering scent. Thoroughly (4.HEART) _____, I returned to my hotel: one of the enormous, faceless places which have sprung up everywhere. Yet here, in a dark shop tucked away off the lobby, my melancholy mood disappeared, for I met a (5.SURVIVE) _____ from 1989, who remembered me instantly. Not everything had been entirely forgotten.

Passage 2

Mankind's intuition of freedom, and our identification of freedom with knowledge, sets us apart from animals. The animal's grasp of freedom is (6.SIGNIFY) _____ in comparison, being only the freedom to respond to external stimuli. The nearest creature to us on the (7.EVOLVE) _____ tree of life, the chimpanzee, can't retain an image for a sufficient length of time to be able to reflect on it. So animal's life is largely a matter of conditioned reflexes, performed in an (8.TERMINATE) _____ present; in short, animals are little more than machines with consciousness. While the animal is carried along (9.SUBMIT) _____ on the stream of time, mankind has certain capacities that (10.POWER) _____ us to resist the current or look into the future.

IV. Complete each sentence with (a) suitable particle(s) or preposition(s).(10p)

1. The concert was so popular that people who had not bought tickets in advance were turned _____
2. I agree with what you said, but I can't go _____ your idea of letting children leave school at 14.
3. Learning English isn't difficult once you get _____ it.
4. Owing to circumstances _____ our control, the flight to Rome has been canceled.
5. What chemical is this? It's giving _____ a horrible smell.
6. _____ receipt of your instruction, I immediately sent a telex message to Algeria.

7. What made Peter walk out _____ his family and his job? Where did he go and why?
8. We put his rude manner _____ ignorance of our British customs.
9. The teacher waited for the noise to die _____ before she continued to speak.
10. No witnesses to the murder have come _____ and the police are struggling to solve the crime.

READING(50P)

I. Choose the word that best fits each of the blanks in the following passage. Write your answers in the numbered box. (10p)

UNIVERSAL WET WEEKEND

The weather across much of the British Isles (1) _____ settled last week, with a good (2) _____ of sunshine. On Saturday, the lunchtime temperature at Bridlington in the northeast of England was 28.2oC, which compared favourably with Alicante in southern Spain at 29oC. The rest of the world, however, was (3) _____ with some extreme conditions. A tropical storm, given the name Helen, hit Hong Kong on Saturday morning, though her presence had been (4) _____ in (5) _____. From noon on Friday, the showers and (6) _____ of rain became more and more frequent so that by midnight on Sunday, thirty-six hours later, there had been 333mm of rainfall, not far off the (7) _____ for the month of August, at 367mm. Even on Sunday there was a (8) _____ in Helen's tail. The town centre of Shanwei, near Hong Kong, was flooded when 468mm of rain fell in the sixty hours (9) _____ up to midday on Sunday, (10) _____ twice the normal August rainfall.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------|
| 1. A. kept | B. remained | C. lasted | D. held |
| 2. A. extent | B. quantity | C. proportion | D. deal |

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 3. A. coping | B. matching | C. colliding | D. queuing |
| 4. A. waited | B. found | C. felt | D. warned |
| 5. A. light | B. advance | C. likelihood | D. day |
| 6. A. outbursts | B. outbreaks | C. outputs | D. outlets |
| 7. A. general | B. standard | C. medium | D. average |
| 8. A. sting | B. prick | C. stab | D. poke |
| 9. A. going | B. leading | C. taking | D. approaching |
| 10. A. only | B. fairly | C. hardly | D. nearly |

Your answer

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

II. Complete the following passage by filling in each blank with one suitable word.

Write your answers in the numbered. (10p)

THE SAHARA MARATHON

One of the most amazing marathon races in the world is the Marathon of the Sands. It takes place every April in the Sahara Desert in the south of Morocco, a part of the world where temperatures can reach fifty degrees centigrade. The standard length of a marathon is 42.5 kilometres but (1) _____ one is 240 kilometres long and takes seven days to complete. It began in 1986 and now attracts about two hundred runners, the majority of (2) _____ ages range from seventeen to forty-seven. About half of them come from France and the rest from all over the world. From Britain it costs £2,500 to enter, which includes return air fares. The race is rapidly becoming more and more popular (3) _____, or perhaps because of, the harsh conditions that runners must endure. They have to carry food and (4) _____ else they need for seven days in a rucksack weighing no more than twelve kilograms. In (5) _____ to this, they are given a litre and a half of water every ten kilometres. Incredibly, nearly (6) _____ the runners finish the course. (7) _____ man, Ibrahim El Journal, took part in every race from 1986 to 2004. Runners do suffer terrible physical hardships. Sometimes they lose toenails and skin peels (8) _____ their feet. However, doctors are always on hand to deal (9) _____ minor injuries and to make sure that runners do not push (10) _____ too far.

Your answer

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

III. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.(10p)

Joanne scanned the area around her, her small frame straining above the pile of wood. She had to wriggle her way through the wood and rubble. It did not matter where she tried, they were all the same. The holes were too small and she used all her might to remove the obstacles, pushing and shoving them out of the way, **the noise** ringing into the night. She was imprisoned. The silence was a far cry from the explosion moments ago. Afraid to be heard, she tried to be as quiet as possible. It was an impossible and ludicrous task. The destruction left behind by the men was far greater than their numbers. Their goals had probably been achieved. Those who did not escape were probably dead.

Telephone lines had been cut and lights had been **shut off** moments before the much feared raids began. Except for the cut-off in communication, there was nothing to indicate that the men would soon arrive. Under the cover of darkness, the more fortunate ones had managed to escape. Those near the border climbed through the holes in the fence, to seek refuge in the neighbouring country.

For weeks, the government had warned of an impending attack by the group. Initial **apprehension** turned to fear when the expected day arrived. However, when nothing happened, everyone thought that the government had made a mistake. After all, how often within that past year had they failed to deliver what had been promised to the citizens. First, the new lands promised to the farmers after the massive insect attacks were insufficient and each farmer had to contend with land that was one third their original size. Then, there was the promise of opening the economy to the international community, allowing many to sell their handicraft overseas but this never materialised. The people soon became angry as they were being deceived and complacency about the raids was abounding in the community.

The environment was ripe for the triad attack. No one noticed the men ambling into the town. What made their attack even more shocking was that the multitude of people returning from work and sitting down to a meal did not even notice the seven men walking past their windows. Military uniform had been a common sight in the town ever since the government's warning was announced. There was no need for these men to run or hide. No one had seen them. Joanne inched her foot out of a gap and half crawled, half walked ahead. Every step she took was painful. Mounted up by the lack of water for hours, the pain in her leg was **excruciating** and the more she walked, the more bodies she saw. Arms and legs were sticking out from under piles of rubble and sometimes a lifeless face could be seen among the debris. Everyone she saw was dead. Despite her situation, Joanne hoped that she would not be able to find any of her family members.

Suddenly, she saw a movement among a pile of rubble. She ran the short distance forward, glad for any sign of life in the place. What she saw spurred her on and she pushed aside several pieces of wood and lifted an orange cloth, probably once a curtain. Groping about, she managed to locate the little body and using all her might, dragged it out. The child could have been more than five years old. He was covered in soot and his stomach heaved in and out in agony. His eyes were shut and only his breathing told her that he was still alive.

Joanne carried the child over her shoulder and squinted in the darkness, trying to locate her **bearings**. Her only hope was the border. Moments ago, she had wanted to forgo everything, thinking that it was probably better to lie in the darkness until it eventually overcame her and the feelings of loneliness would disappear. Now, she was encouraged to continue. If she could reach the border, she would be able to get help. Looking around, she ran in the direction of what looked like spots of bright yellow light.

1. What was causing "**the noise**" in the first paragraph?

- A. Her small frame straining above the pile of wood.
- B. Her wriggling through the wood and rubble.
- C. Her pushing and shoving the obstacles out of the way.
- D. The explosion heard moments ago.

2. Why were the lights "**shut off**" in the second paragraph?

- A. It enabled the people to escape from the place.
- B. It led them to the neighbouring country.
- C. It warned the people of the coming raids.
- D. It was shut inadvertently by the raiders.

3. The word "**apprehension**" in the third paragraph is closest in meaning to

- A. anxiety B. clairvoyance C. voidance D. incongruity

4. It can be inferred from the passage that _____

- A. the government had yet to fail the people
- B. the strange men were dressed in military uniform
- C. the main target of the mentioned men were Joanne
- D. there were numerous indications of the men's arrival

5. What spurred Joanne to remove the wood and orange cloth?

- A. The child's stomach which was moving.
- B. The short distance between her and the child.
- C. The vague sight of a family member.
- D. The lifeless faces seen among the debris.

6. The word "**excruciating**" in the fourth paragraph can best be replaced by _____

- A. painless B. discerning C. piercing D. powerful