Name:_____

Directions: *In this section of the test, you will read FOUR different passages, each followed by 10 questions about it. For questions 1-40, you are to choose the best answer **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**, to each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen. Answer all questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.*

You have 60 minutes to answer all the questions, including the time to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

PASSAGE 1: Questions 1-10

SOCIAL NETWORKS

Do the names MySpace, Facebook, Orkut, etc. ring a bell? They probably do because they are some of the most popular sites on the internet today. These sites are all called 'social networking' sites because they help people meet and discuss things online.

Each of these social networking sites has its own strengths: MySpace is especially popular among teenagers, Facebook is popular with college age people, Orkut is especially loved in Brazil, and CyWorld is the site to visit in South Korea. The common thread between all of these social networks is that they provide a place for people to interact, rather than a place to go to read or listen to 'content'.

Web 2.0

Social networks are considered to be web 2.0. What does this mean? To understand this, it's important to understand what the original web did (often called web 1.0). Back in the nineties, the internet - or web - was a place to go to read articles, listen to music, get information, etc.

Most people didn't contribute to the sites. **They** just 'browsed' the sites and took advantage of the information or resources provided. Of course, some people did create their own sites. However, creating a site was difficult. You needed to know basic HTML coding (the original language the internet uses to 'code' pages). It certainly wasn't something most people wanted to do as it could take hours to get a basic page just right.

Things began to get easier when blogs (from web log) were introduced. With blogs, many more people began writing 'posts', as well as commenting on other people's blogs.

MySpace Surprises Everybody

In 2003 a site named MySpace took the internet by storm. It was trying to **mimic** the most popular features of Friendster, the first social networking site. It quickly became popular among young users and the rest was history. Soon everyone was trying to develop a social networking site. The sites didn't provide 'content' for people to enjoy, they helped people create, communicate and share what they loved including music, images and videos.

Key to Success

Relying on users to create content is the key to the success of web 2.0 companies. Besides the social networking sites discussed here, other huge success stories include: Wikipedia,

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Digg.com and the latest success - Twitter. All of these companies rely on the desire of users to communicate with each other, thereby creating the 'content' that others want to consume.

1. Which social networking site was NOT mentioned in the reading?

A. MySpace
B. LinkedIn
C. Facebook
D. Friendster

2. Where is Orkut especially popular?

A. In Japan
B. In South Korea
C. In the United States
D. In Brazil

3. Why does the writer mention **CyWorld** in paragraph 2?

A. to give an example of a strong point of a social networking site
B. to emphasize the importance social networking sites
C. to demonstrate the popularity of social networking sites
D. to express the common feature of social networking sites

4. Which phrase best describes what people do at social networking sites?

A. They comment other people's blog.
B. They code pages in HTML.
C. They browse articles and other content.
D. They interact with other people.

5. What was the original web mainly used for?

A. Interacting with other people
B. Browsing content
C. Creating pages in HTML
D. Writing on blogs

6. What does the word **they** in paragraph 4 refer to?

A. resources
B. the sites
C. most people
D. social networks

7. The world **mimic** in paragraph 6 could be best replaced by _____.

A. imitate
B. imagine
C. eliminate
D. utilize

8. What does the writer imply about MySpace?

A. It was the first social networking site.
B. It was successful.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C. People could enjoy the content it provided.

D. It destroyed the internet like a storm.

9. What is most important for Web 2.0 companies to be successful?

A. Users' desire to communicate with each other

B. Users' desire to read interesting content written by professionals

C. Users' desire to learn coding

D. Users' intelligence

10. What is the writer's purpose?

A. to advertise for web 2.0 companies

B. to persuade people to develop social networking sites

C. to give information about social networking sites

D. to criticize social networking sites

PASSAGE 2: Questions 11-20

Rainforests are disappearing in tropical areas around the world. They are being cut down, burned and damaged through a process called "deforestation". This is a serious problem in developing countries within tropical regions. The impact of deforestation also has vast global implications. It is, therefore, very important to find solutions to these problems. Unfortunately, progress in this area has been very slow.

According to World Bank statistics, many developing countries, such as Brazil, Ecuador, and Indonesia had lost almost half of their rainforests by 1991. Worldwide, in 1800 there were 7.1 billion acres of tropical forests, while today there are only3.5 billion acres. Recent statistics suggest that an area of tropical forest larger than North Korea is deforested every year.

Most importantly, the rainforests play an important role in the health of our environment. Trees and other plants act as filters that clean pollutants out of the air and produce clean air. With air pollutant increasing as forests decline, the world is facing a potential crisis with regard to air quality.

Poverty is one of the main forces behind deforestation in tropical countries, where many rely on farming as a **way of life**. The most practical method is "slash and burn" agriculture, in which a small area of trees is cut down and then burned to fertilize the soil. For a period of time, the soil can produce good crops, but rain gradually washes away the nutrients, reducing fertility and causing crops to grow at a slower rate. Eventually, the soil can no longer support crops, and farmers are often forced to abandon the land.

Government policies also contribute to the destruction of rainforests. In countries like Brazil, much of the rainforest is owned by the state. However, the state does not have enough resources to control access to the forests. Therefore, the government allows people to claim area of land within the forest. To do **this**, people must clear the land that they want to claim. Small farmers, then, often clear plots and then sell them. They then move to a new area, clear it, and then sell it again. While this is good for farmers, it is highly destructive to forests.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Larger companies contribute to their own problems. Logging companies can do a great deal of damage on their own, but they also cause secondary damage through their effects on small farmers. Often, road construction companies hired by the government claim land that they clear during their projects, thus pushing small farmers further into forests. In addition, the government might set low tax rate for agricultural production. Corporations and wealthy investors buy up lands, and the small farmers are gain forced to find plots in unclaimed areas of the forests.

The problem of deforestation is strongly affected by poverty in developing countries. Clearly, any long-term solution to deforestation must focus first on how poverty can be reduced. Any other solution can only be a temporary measure.

11. According to World Bank statistics, a lot of developing countries had lost _____ their rainforests by 1991.

A. a half of
B. nearly a half of
C. one third
D. a fourth

12. The phrase "**way of life**" in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to _____.

A. daily living
B. hobby
C. interest
D. future survival

13. The author mention North Korea to _____.

A. demonstrate the impact of deforestation in North Korea.
B. demonstrate that North Korea policy is favorable to that of Brazil.
C. demonstrate how much forest is being destroyed each year.
D. demonstrate that deforestation is not as serious as we thought.

14. The word "**this**" in paragraph 5 refers to _____.

A. claiming land
B. burning the forest
C. allowing farmers to claim land
D. making policies

15. What is the main purpose of paragraph 6?

A. To explain the primary damage caused by logging companies
B. To explain how large companies affect small farmers
C. To explain agricultural taxes
D. To show how corporations purchase land

16. According to the passage, why is "slash and burn" agriculture harmful?

A. It leaves areas of land infertile.
B. It pollutes the water supply.
C. It keeps farmers in poverty.
D. It can cause forest fires.

17. All of the following are mentioned in the passage EXCEPT _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A. The extent of rainforest destruction
B. The fast food industry clearing rainforests for grazing land
C. The practice of slash and burn agriculture in Brazil
D. Logging companies and their effects on farmers.

18. From the passage, it can be inferred that _____.
A. deforestation is the main cause of poverty in tropical countries.
B. deforestation must be addressed if developing countries are to succeed.
C. deforestation is a serious problem for small farmers.
D. deforestation is driven by economics.

19. According to the passage, why does Brazilian government allow farmers to make claims on rainforest land?
A. They want to improve living conditions of farmers.
B. If the farmers do not claim them, larger companies will.
C. They do not have the resources to prevent it.
D. The economy is based on agriculture.

20. According to the passage, which of the following would be best addressed the problem of deforestation?
A. Changing government policies
B. Increasing angricultural taxes
C. Reducing poverty
D. Studying plant life for medicinal benefits

PASSAGE 3 – Questions 21-30

Floods are second only to fire as the most common of all natural disasters. **They** occur almost everywhere in the world, resulting in widespread damage and even death. Consequently, scientists have long tried to perfect their ability to predict floods. So far, the best that scientists can do is to recognize the potential for flooding in certain conditions. There are at least a number of conditions, from deep snow on the ground to human error, that cause flooding.

The first cause of flooding is deep snow on the ground. When deep snow melts, it creates a large amount of water. Although deep snow alone rarely causes floods, when it occurs together with heavy rain and sudden warmer weather, it can lead to serious flooding. If there is a fast snow melt on top of frozen or very wet ground, flooding is more likely to occur than when the ground is not frozen. Frozen ground or ground that is very wet and already saturated with water cannot absorb the additional water created by the melting snow. Melting snow also contributes to high water levels in rivers and streams. Whenever rivers are already at their full capacity of water, heavy rains will result in the rivers overflowing and flooding the surrounding land.

Secondly, rivers that are covered in ice can also lead to flooding. When ice begins to melt, the surface of the ice cracks and breaks into large pieces. These pieces of ice move and float down the river. They can form a dam in the river, causing the water behind the dam to rise and flood the

LIVEWORKSHEETS

land upstream. If the dam breaks suddenly, then the large amount of water held behind the dam can flood the areas downstream too.

Broken ice dams are not the only dam problems that can cause flooding. Those carelessly constructed by humans can also result in floods. When a large human-made dam breaks or fails to hold the water collected behind it, the results can be devastating. Dams contain such huge amounts of water behind them that when sudden breaks occur, the destructive force of the water is like a great **tidal wave**. Unleashed dam waters can travel tens of kilometres, cover the ground in metres of mud and debris, and drown and crush every thing and creature in their path.

Although scientists cannot always predict exactly when floods will occur, they do know a great deal about when floods are likely, or probably, going to occur. Deep snow, ice-covered rivers, and weak dams are all strong conditions for potential flooding. Hopefully, this knowledge of why floods happen can help us reduce the damage they cause.

21. What is the most common natural disaster?
    A. flood
    B. fire
    C. tidal wave
    D. rain
22. What does the word **they** in paragraph 2 refer to?
    A. floods
    B. disasters
    C. scientists
    D. conditions
23. Which of the following best describes how deep snow causes flooding?
    A. melting snow that creates a large amount of water causes flooding.
    B. freezing water causes flooding.
    C. melting snow combining with considerable amount of rain and sudden increase in temperature leads to flooding.
    D. snow that melts in wet weather causes flooding.

24. Why does saturated ground contribute to flooding problems?
    A. the ground cannot absorb more water
    B. the ground is too hard, so the water runs off
    C. the ground forms a kind of dam
    D. it remains frozen
25. How can a frozen river cause a flood?
    A. The ice in the river melts too quickly and causes a flood.
    B. The ice in the river cracks causing the water to overflow.
    C. The ice in the river cracks into pieces that eventually create a dam causing the water to overflow.
    D. The water behind the ice dam collects and when the dam breaks, it causes flooding upstream.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

26. Why does the writer mention **tidal wave** in paragraph 4?
    A. to compare the force of a broken human – made dam
    B. to introduce another natural disaster
    C. to emphasize the effects of natural disasters
    D. to criticize dam designers
27. How far can dam water travel when it is unleashed from a broken dam?
    A. less than 10 kilometres
    B. tens of kilometres
    C. thousands of kilometres
    D. tens of thousands of kilometres downstream
28. The word **devastating** in paragraph 4 has the closest meaning to
    A. fabulous
    B. uncountable
    C. priceless
    D. disastrous
29. Which of the following is NOT MENTIONED as a cause for flood in the reading passages?
    A. melting snow
    B. ice covered rivers
    C. broken dams
    D. poorly built roads
30. What can be inferred from the last paragraph?
    A. Scientists know very little about floods.
    B. Potential flooding cannot be predicted.
    C. Consequences of flooding can be reduced if its causes are identified.
    D. There are only three conditions for potential flooding.

PASSAGE 4 – Questions 31-40

Garbage cans are not magical portals. Trash does not disappear when you toss it in a can. Yet, the average American throws away an estimated 1,600 pounds of waste each year. If there are no magic garbage fairies, where does all that trash go? There are four methods to managing waste: recycling, land-filling, composting, and incinerating. Each method has its strengths and weakness. Let's take a quick look at each.

Recycling is the process of turning waste into new materials. For example, used paper can be turned into paperboard, which can be used to make book covers. Recycling can reduce pollution, save materials, and lower energy use. Yet, some argue that recycling wastes energy. They believe that collecting, processing, and converting waste uses more energy than it saves. Still, most people agree that recycling is better for the planet than land-filling.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Land-filling is the oldest method of managing waste. In its simplest form, land-filling is when people bury garbage in a hole. Over time the practice of land-filling has advanced. Garbage is **compacted** before it is thrown into the hole. In this way more garbage can fit in each landfill. Large liners are placed in the bottom of landfills so that toxic garbage juice doesn't get into the ground water. Sadly, these liners don't always work. Landfills may pollute the local water supply. Not to mention that all of that garbage stinks. Nobody wants to live next to a landfill. This makes it hard to find new locations for landfills.

As landfill space increases, interest in composting grows. Composting is when people pile up organic matter, such as food waste, and allows it to decompose. The product of this decomposition is compost. Compost can be added to the soil to make the soil richer and better for growing crops. While composting is easy to do onsite somewhere, like home or school, it's hard to do after the garbage gets all mixed up. This is because plastic and other inorganic materials must be removed from the compost pile or they will pollute the soil. There's a lot of plastic in garbage, which makes it hard to compost on a large scale.

One thing that is easier to do is burning garbage. There are two main ways to incinerate waste. The first is to create or harvest a fuel from the waste, such as methane gas, and burn the fuel. The second is to burn the waste directly. The heat from the **incineration** process can boil water, which can power steam generators. Unfortunately, burning garbage pollutes the air. Also, some critics worry that incinerators destroy valuable resources that could be recycled.

Usually, the community which you live manages waste. Once you put your garbage in that can, what happens to it is beyond your control. But you can make choices while it is still in your possession. You can choose to recycle, you can choose to compost, or you can choose to let someone else deal with it. The choice is yours.

31. Which best explains why the author begins the text by talking about magical garbage fairies?
    A. He is putting a common misconception to rest.
    B. He is trying to get the reader's attention.
    C. He is addressing his concern in a serious way.
    D. He is supporting his argument with evidence.
32. Which best expresses the meaning of the word "**compacted**" as it is used in the third paragraph?
    A. Garbage is burned before it is thrown in a hole.
    B. Garbage is put in trucks before it is thrown in a hole.
    C. Garbage is crushed smaller before it is thrown in a hole.
    D. Garbage is put in a can before it is thrown in a hole.

33. Which was **NOT** cited in the third paragraph as an issue with land-filling?
    A. Landfills are smelly.
    B. Usable materials are wasted in landfills.
    C. Landfills may pollute the water supply.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D. It is difficult to find locations for landfills.

34. Which best expresses the main idea of the fourth paragraph?
    A. Landfills take up a lot of space.
    B. Composting is good for the soil but it can be …….
    C. The process of composting is very complicated and scientific.
    D. There is a lot of plastic garbage in landfills.
35. Which best defines the meaning of **incineration** as it is used in the text?
    A. To bury waste materials in a large hole
    B. To allow waste products to decompose and become fertilizer
    C. To burn waste materials and harvest the energy
    D. To turn waste materials into products like book covers
36. Which conclusion could be supported with text from the passage?
    A. Each method of waste management has its drawbacks.
    B. Recycling is without a doubt the best way to handle waste.
    C. Incineration is the best way to process waste.
    D. All large cities should create massive compost piles.
37. Which best expresses the author's main purpose in writing this?
    A. To convince readers to recycle and compost
    B. To persuade readers that recycling is a waste of resources
    C. To compare and contrast recycling and land-filling
    D. To inform readers of methods of waste management

38. Which is **NOT** included in this text?
    A. A description of how trash is collected
    B. A description of the uses of compost
    C. A description of the two methods of incinerating trash
    D. A description of how landfills have advanced over time
39. Which best explains why composting is not feasible on a large scale?
    A. People wouldn't want to touch all of that gross rotting food.
    B. It would smell too bad in densely populated cities.
    C. It would attract rodents that would spread disease.
    D. Plastic would get into the compost and turn it into a pollutant.
40. Which title best expresses the main idea of this text?
    A. *The Magic of Recycling: Bringing Back What Was Once Lost*
    B. *Methods of Waste Management: Pros and Cons*
    C. *Recycling Land-filling or Composting: Which is Best For You?*
    D. *Do Your Part: How to Save the Earth by Recycling and Composting*

LIVEWORKSHEETS