

TASK 2

Read the text below.

For questions (6-11) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, D).

Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

EARTH 50 YEARS FROM NOW

People talk about wars and pandemics that could prevent us from populating ourselves into a disaster. A war or pandemic would have to be nothing like we have ever seen before. All of the people that were killed in all of the wars for the last hundred years in total make a shocking number, but those deaths did not stop the swelling of the population.

The population is that main issue but it is not the only issue. Another issue is the disproportionate consumption of the resources. Americans, Canadians, and Western Europeans have been consuming many times their share of the resources, but these statistics are going to change in the near future. China and India are becoming economic powerhouses and they want their share of the good life. This will be additional pressure on the resources as these two large population areas claim more and more resources per person. The dwindling resources will make war and decrease inevitable so maybe in a sense they will be the answer. We may just keep fighting and dying until our population has been reduced though I doubt that the ecosystem will take the beating; especially if the nukes are unleashed.

I'm not sure there is an answer to stopping the depletion of the resources of the planet. Even if we all turned over a new leaf tomorrow and did our best to conserve; I don't think we could conserve nearly enough to make a difference. There are very few of us, and I'm not one of them, that would drastically reduce their standard of living to save the resources. Without that level of sacrifice; I don't know if conservation will do the trick.

Economics does play a part. The markets will not survive when resources dwindle and more people will be without the funds to consume at the rate they are consuming now. The present recession has showed us how consumption can slow when money gets tight. People, even Americans, will get back to basics when the money runs out. I'm not sure where we will be fifty years from now, but I imagine the threat will be more real than it is now. There is always hope that science will find new ways to stretch our resources and keep us going a little longer, but I think by 2059 the global situation could be very tense.

For questions (6-11) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, D).

- 6. The number of people on Earth is**
A dwindling
B increasing
C being reduced
D unchangeable
- 7. In the near future will get more resources per person.**
A Western European countries
B Canadian population
C Asian states
D Americans
- 8. What will make death of the population inevitable?**
A change of the ecosystem
B disproportionate consumption of the resources
C cut down of the resources
D dying out of the population
- 9. The author the people could change their planet into a better place.**
A is sure that
B is uncertain whether
C wonders whether
D proves that
- 10. If the markets decline, people**
A will consume less
B won't have money for purchasing
C will consume more
D won't run out of funds
- 11. In author's opinion by 2059 the global situation will be**
A better
B not worse
C more optimistic
D very strained

TASK 3

Read the text below. Match choices (A-H) to (12-16).

There are three choices you do not need to use.

Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

THE VIDEO GAME INDUSTRY

12.

The video game industry is exploding. People of all ages are enjoying them, whether on a computer, game console or the Internet.

Everyone is talking about them. Consider these recent headlines: 'Top Activity for National Goof-Off Day: Playing Video Games!', 'Video games, not TV responsible for obesity in kids...', 'Video Games Approved for Teens Often Contain Violence, Study Concludes', 'Violent video games are training children to kill'.

13.

Recently, the U.S. Army and Navy have employed video games to train their recruits. They have found that the large simulators once used were much too expensive. Instructors are able to spend far less time explaining how to use a complex simulation; this allows them to spend far more time training soldiers in battlefield tactics.

There is evidence that 'gamers' have faster reaction times and more accurate hand-eye coordination than 'non-gamers.' Like the military, certain corporations have seen positive results from using video games to train workers who engage in intense mental activities, such as stock market trading.

14.

Additionally, there is a tendency within the circle of avid gamers to talk about the wonderful benefits of these games. Many in this crowd claim that video games are actually making them smarter.

There are various conflicting theories as to defining and measuring intelligence. Some psychologists say that it is skill; others consider it an aptitude for learning; and still others assert that it is an ability to handle diverse situations. Regardless, knowledge is not the same as intelligence.

Gamers have not actually become more intelligent — they have become more experienced. Consider. Would anybody be surprised if studies proved that smokers are better at smoking or that heroin addicts are better at giving injections? Experience in these 'skills' does not make such people more intelligent.

15.

Practicing an activity makes one better at it. Apply this understanding to the video games that children play — games in which kids practice fighting, murder and taking drugs. As a result, children are becoming good at being deplorable!

Many parents are unaware of the level of violence to which they are exposing their kids in giving them such games. Sadly, most parents simply do not take the time to know what their children are really doing. Often, the few who try are met with the violence or cursing that their kids have been learning from video games.

Parents need to be diligent and cautious in buying video games for children, or else they risk exposing them to violence and sexually explicit material.

16.

Remember, people once played board games to engage in conversation and to learn about each other. But today, when people play video games with each other, the conversation is far from engrossing. Many gamers claim that since they are not good at dealing with other people, they turn to their 'online friends'. However, is the 'virtual social life' that these people engage in truly as beneficial as real life?

Gamers who devote virtually all their spare time to playing video games do not allow themselves to develop the social skills that would lead to real-life relationships. They do not have a social life because they have not allowed themselves the opportunity to develop one!

To be good at anything takes practice — and this includes developing an active, healthy ability to interact with all kinds of human beings.

- A** Developing Social Skills
- B** Video Games Addicts
- C** Children Are Practicing Violence
- D** Cause and Effect
- E** Do Games Make You Cleverer?
- F** TV Publicity of Video Games
- G** Growing Popularity
- H** Practicing Skills

TASK 4

Read the text below.

Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (17-22).

There are two choices you do not need to use.

CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, VA

By Candyce H. Stapen

On Assateague Island the breezes may bring you the sounds of snow geese honking and the neighs of wild ponies. Although Misty, the pint-size pony from Marguerite Henry's book 'Misty of Chincoteague', may have made this area famous, (17) The area also has sunlit beaches, wetlands and in fall thousands of migrating waterfowl.

Chincoteague provides the only Virginia access to Assateague Island, home to Assateague Island National Seashore and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. This barrier island has 37 miles of wild beach, and the only inhabitants include 320 different species of birds, the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel, white-tailed deer, Sika elk, and wild ponies. Grazing or galloping across a field, (18) Remember that the ponies are wild. Do not get too close and do not pet these animals as they may bite or kick.

No one knows how the ponies arrived. Legends abound, including speculation that the first ponies swam ashore from wrecked Spanish galleons or were driven to the barrier island in the 1680s by colonists (19) Six inches shorter than saddle horses, the brown, white, or dappled Chincoteague ponies are stockier than other breeds.

Cars are allowed only in limited areas, so your best bet for enjoying the wildlife and undeveloped beaches (20) Fall and winter are special times to visit. There are 18,000 acres of natural landscape — no motels, condominiums, or fast-food restaurants to mar your communing with nature — and few crowds except during the peak of the fall migration. The island is located on the eastern flyway, (21) Here the crisp, clear air vibrates with strange sounds, such as the high-pitched honk of snow geese and the throaty duck calls that carry from marsh to marsh.

In fall and winter you can walk the miles of wild beaches bordered by dunes, bike through the acres of marshlands, and observe scores of black ducks, snowy egrets, and 66 great blue herons. This is a special winter refuge, not just for the migratory waterfowl, but for beach lovers, bird-watchers, animal enthusiasts, (22)

**Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (17-22).
There are two choices you do not need to use.**

- A** the ponies impart a sense of power and freedom to this landscape
- B** is to hike or bike
- C** and especially burned-out city dwellers
- D** with an array of interactive, educational exhibits
- E** there's a lot more than horses here
- F** avoiding livestock taxes and the cost of fencing
- G** that serves as a state-of-the-art environmental learning centre
- H** so the sky is filled with thousands of migrating waterfowl in fall

TASK 5

Read and complete the text below.

For the empty spaces (23-34) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

WAVES IN AN OCEAN

Spiritual Story by Mitch Albom

A little wave was (23) along in the ocean, having a grand old time. He's enjoying the wind and the fresh air — until he (24) the other waves in front of him, (25) against the shore.

'My God, (26) is terrible,' the wave says. 'Look what's going to (27) to me!'

Then along comes (28) wave. It sees the first wave, looking (29) , and it says to him, 'Why do you look so (30) ?'

The first wave says, 'You don't (31) ! We're all going to crash! All of us. Waves are going to be (32) ! Isn't this (33) ?'

The second wave says, 'No, YOU don't understand. You're not a wave, you're (34) of the ocean.'

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 23 | A swinging | B drifting | C bobbing | D sailing |
| 24 | A watches | B notices | C gazing | D peeping |
| 25 | A crashing | B smashing | C breaking | D splitting |
| 26 | A this | B these | C that | D those |
| 27 | A take place | B come about | C chance | D happen |
| 28 | A other | B each | C one | D another |
| 29 | A dull | B cloudy | C grim | D ugly |
| 30 | A dismal | B dismal | C sad | D unfortunate |
| 31 | A grasp | B understand | C seize | D appreciate |
| 32 | A nothing | B anything | C something | D everything |
| 33 | A terrible | B horrible | C awful | D terrific |
| 34 | A fragment | B portion | C fraction | D part |

TASK 6

Read the texts below. For (35-46) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

CARROTS, EGGS, OR COFFEE

A young woman went to her grandmother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she (35) make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem (36) , a new one would pop up.

Her grandmother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed (37) on a high fire, and soon the pots came to boil. In the first pot she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them (38) without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned (39) the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

(40) to her granddaughter, she asked, 'Tell me what you see.'

'Carrots, eggs, and coffee,' she replied. Her grandmother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they (41) soft. The grandmother then asked the granddaughter to take an egg and break it. After (42) off the shell, she observed the hardboiled egg. Finally, the grandmother asked the granddaughter to sip the coffee. The granddaughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma then asked, 'What (43) , grandmother?'

She answered: (44) water. Each reacted (45) The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became (46) The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

'Which are you?' she asked her granddaughter.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 35 A goes to | B was going to | C will go | D went |
| 36 A to solve | B be solving | C was solved | D has been solved |
| 37 A each | B every | C one | D another |
| 38 A boil | B boiling | C were boiling | D boiled |
| 39 A on | B out | C in | D off |
| 40 A Having turned | B To turn | C Being turned | D Turning |
| 41 A are | B were | C will be | D had been |
| 42 A pulling | B the pull | C having pulling | D being pulling |
| 43 A does it mean | B it means | C do it mean | D is it mean |
| 44 A boiled | B boiler | C boil | D boiling |
| 45 A differently | B differ | C different | D differed |
| 46 A hardly | B hard | C hardened | D hardening |

WRITING**TASK 1**

Read the text below.

Fill in the each gap with the one word which best fits each space (47-50).

Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

SMALL PACKAGES

We sisters loved Diwali, the festival of lights. We looked (47) to the small package papa brought for us — the box of sweets! When the sweets were gone, we craved for another box.

And yes, who can forget the crackers? We always felt they weren't enough for us to go to the common playground and burst them with the other kids. Those days were tough, papa used to buy us limited crackers within his means. Other kids found it funny that we came to enjoy Diwali with six to ten crackers.

A girl laughed 'Hey, that's all, and then what are you (48) to burst tomorrow?'

I felt a lump in my throat. I looked at my sister. I could see a small tear drop form in her eye. If only Papa could buy us some more crackers, I could give her a fitting reply.

The next Diwali, we burst crackers on our terrace, just the two of us. We noticed an elderly aunt watch us enjoy. At the end of it, she remarked, 'It was beautiful, you made my day!' She used to tend to her sick father day (49) day with devotion, her world revolved only from home to office and back We felt happy that day; we saw her smile! She sure made our day too.

Today, years later, Diwali has a different meaning. Today we can afford to buy as many crackers as we (50) from our earnings, but we never do.

Today we do have a lot of sweets during Diwali, but we never savour them as we used to then. The beauty of life truly, lies in small packages. Thanks Papa.