

ZNO PRACTICE: Use of English

Read the text below. For questions 1-10 choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

TASK 1

Cinderella's story

We all know Cinderella. She's a princess. She 1 _____ a beautiful dress with a shiny tiara, glass shoes, and long white gloves. She lives with a wicked stepmother and stepsisters, who treat her as their maid. With some help she meets and dances with a very 2 _____ prince, then hurries home before the clock 3 _____ midnight and her 4 _____ becomes a pumpkin again.

But that's not the real Cinderella. That's the Disney Cinderella, the one from the 1950 animated film and the new 5 _____ in cinemas right now. The real Cinderella isn't so easy to describe. She is a 6 _____ who mixes together centuries of storytelling from many different cultures. In total, more than 500 versions of the Cinderella story have been found in Europe alone, and the Cinderella we know best comes from there.

However, the first recorded story with a Cinderella-like figure 7 _____ back to the sixth century BC in Greece. In that ancient story, a Greek woman named Rhodopis has one of her shoes stolen by an eagle, who flies it all the way across the Mediterranean and drops it in the 8 _____ of an Egyptian king.

Taking the shoe drop as a 9 _____ from the heavens (both literally and metaphorically), the king goes on a mission to find the 10 _____ of the shoe. When he finds Rhodopis, he marries her, lifting her from her low status to the throne.

1	A wears	B carries	C shows	D bears
2	A graceful	B pretty	C handsome	D gorgeous
3	A strikes	B collides	C knocks	D smacks
4	A transit	B carriage	C transportation	D carrier
5	A reshape	B remodel	C redo	D remake
6	A quality	B nature	C complex	D character
7	A determines	B registers	C dates	D comes
8	A lap	B waist	C kidney	D liver
9	A flag	B sign	C bell	D note
10	A keeper	B owner	C partner	D sharer

TASK 2

How potatoes became popular in Greece

Count John Kapodistrias was elected as the first head of state of independent Greece (1827-33) after a long 1 _____ in European politics and diplomacy. He is considered the founder of the 2 _____ Greek State, and the founder of Greek independence. Among other things, in an effort to raise the living 3 _____ of the population he introduced the cultivation of the potato into Greece.

4 _____ to legend, Kapodistrias ordered that potatoes should be 5 _____ to anyone who was interested. However the population was unwilling at first to accept the offer. The legend continues, that he then ordered that the whole shipment of potatoes was unloaded on public display on the docks of Nafplion, and placed it under guard to make the people 6 _____ that they were valuable. Soon, people would 7 _____ to look at the guarded potatoes and some started to steal them. The guards had been ordered in advance to turn a blind 8 _____ to such behaviour, and soon the potatoes had all been "stolen" and Kapodistrias' plan to 9 _____ them to Greece had succeeded. And now some of the most famous Greek dishes, like moussaka, use potatoes as a basic 10 _____.

1	A course	B career	C race	D progress
2	A modern	B latest	C stylish	D recent
3	A codes	B rules	C laws	D standards
4	A As reported	B According	C As stated	D Just as
5	A applied	B devoted	C handed out	D assigned
6	A accept	B believe	C trust	D admit
7	A gather	B collect	C select	D grow
8	A sight	B eye	C curtain	D look
9	A announce	B begin	C enter	D introduce
10	A additive	B ingredient	C element	D part

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TASK 3

Captain returned to prison to escape

On 24 August 1914, during World War 1, Captain Robert Campbell of the British Army's 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment was captured while serving on the front line.

He was taken to a 1 _____ for prisoners-of-war in Magdeburg, Germany. During his time there, he 2 _____ a letter saying that his mother was dying of cancer. Wishing to see his mother one last time before she died, Campbell wrote a touching 3 _____ to the German Kaiser.

Surprisingly, the Kaiser 4 _____ his request – as long as Robert Campbell returned. Campbell gave his 5 _____ and returned to the UK – likely through the Netherlands. There he 6 _____ time with his dying mother, who died in February 1917.

After her death, he kept his 7 _____ and came back. Most surprisingly, however, is that Campbell then tried to 8 _____ soon after his return.

Unfortunately, no other British 9 _____ in German captivity were shown compassion of this sort, after the British 10 _____ a similar request from a German prisoner-of-war called Peter Gastreich.

1	A camp	B tent	C cottage	D hut
2	A collected	B earned	C received	D gained
3	A reply	B letter	C sign	D e-mail
4	A adopted	B liked	C welcomed	D accepted
5	A vow	B declaration	C word	D statement
6	A devoted	B spent	C wasted	D killed
7	A assurance	B promise	C consent	D contract
8	A run	B fly	C escape	D avoid
9	A prisoners	B hostages	C cons	D criminals
10	A rejected	B dismissed	C eliminated	D disbelieved

TASK 4

The history of money

From the earliest days of human beings on Earth bartering was the way people exchanged goods and services. If you grew rice, for example, you could trade 1 _____ of rice for the other goods and services you needed.

Over time, though, bartering wasn't always possible. Sometimes people couldn't 2 _____ on what goods were worth in exchanges. In other situations, people simply might not want to trade for what you had available. These situations led to the 3 _____ of commodity money.

Commodities are basic items used by almost everyone. In the past, popular commodities included salt, tea, cattle, and seeds and using these items of 'money' 4 _____ some of the problems of bartering. However, commodities weren't always easy to transport and often they were difficult to store.

These 5 _____ with commodities led people to create coins out of 6 _____ metals to use as money. No one knows for sure who first 7 _____ such money, but historians believe metal objects were first used as money as early as 5.000 B.C.

Eventually, societies moved away from using metals to make money. Known as representative money, the new paper 8 _____ and coins made of non-precious metals represented certain values that everyone in those societies could agree upon. Governments or banks would promise to exchange representative money for a specific 9 _____ of silver or gold.

Today, most modern currency is not 10 _____ by silver or gold. Instead, today's money is known as fiat money. Fiat is a Latin word that means "let it be done". Money has a certain value today because it was given that value by government fiat or decree. Legal tender laws now make it illegal to refuse legal currency in favour of some other form of payment.

1	A pieces	B bags	C lumps	D loaves
2	A admit	B permit	C settle	D agree
3	A development	B progress	C event	D occurrence
4	A explained	B determined	C dealt	D solved
5	A topics	B issues	C matter	D argument
6	A dear	B prized	C precious	D rich
7	A came up	B discovered	C invented	D planned
8	A check	B notes	C invoices	D debts
9	A number	B measure	C amount	D score
10	A financed	B sponsored	C encouraged	D backed

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TASK 5

A mathematician's life work reduced to 40 seconds

Schoolmaster and amateur mathematician William Shanks (1812–82) spent the greater part of his life working out 1 _____ value of Pi (the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter) to 707 decimal places. More than 60 years after his death, mathematician DF Ferguson, 2 _____ a mechanical calculator, pointed out that William 3 _____ the last 180 of these decimal places wrong.

In the late 1940s an ENIAC computer took 70 hours 4 _____ 2.037 digits of Pi. In 1958 an IBM computer 5 _____ in 40 seconds what William Shanks had done in a lifetime. The millionth digit of Pi was found in 1973 and the billionth in 1995.

1	A the	B -	C a	D an
2	A being used	B had used	C using	D was used
3	A was got	B been got	C got	D had got
4	A to calculate	B calculate	C calculated	D was calculated
5	A had done	B did	C has done	D has been done

TASK 6

How the Austrian army defeated itself

The Battle of Karansebes in 1788 was caused 1 _____ friendly fire. The Austrian Army at that time 2 _____ of Austrians, Czechs, Germans, Frenchmen, Serbs, Croats, and Poles. This made communication difficult and resulted in an army that was poorly organized.

During the night some soldiers got into an argument over alcohol and a shot was fired. Suddenly the main camp was shouting "Turks, Turks!" and chaos followed. Austrian officers were shouting "Halt, Halt!" in German, 3 _____ to reestablish order but the majority of the soldiers did not speak German and believed they were hearing the Turks screaming "Allah Allah" as they attacked. Suddenly everyone 4 _____ anything that moved in the darkness. A commander, believing the Ottoman cavalry was attacking the camp, decided 5 _____ his own men with artillery fire! This is what led to 10,000 dead Austrian soldiers.

The Turkish Army? Well, they did not arrive until 2 days later and took control of the town of Karansebes.

1	A in	B from	C by	D with
2	A made up	B was made up	C had been made up	D is made up
3	A trying	B were trying	C were tried	D had tried
4	A had been shooting	B were shooting	C was shooting	D shot
5	A were bombarding	B bombarding	C bombard	D to bombard

TASK 7

Lord Byron and a pet bear

George Gordon Byron is one of 1 _____ British poets of all times, well known for his love of animals. During his life, Byron kept a countless number of animals. When Byron 2 _____ at Trinity College, Cambridge, from 1805 to 1808, he even had a bear. At this time, according to the statutes of the college, dogs 3 _____. Lord Byron was angry with the college rules, so he brought a tame bear as a pet.

The college authorities had an argument with the poet, but since there was no mention of pet bears in the statutes of the college, they had no legal right to expel 4 _____ bear or its owner. Byron walked the bear on a chain and treated it like a dog. When Byron left Cambridge, in 1808, he 5 _____ the bear with him to his house in London.

1	A the greatest	B greater	C more greater	D the most great
2	A studied	B had studied	C was studying	D was studied
3	A did not allow	B were not allowed	C was not allowed	D had not been allowed
4	A a	B the	C an	D -
5	A had been taken	B was taken	C had taken	D took

TASK 8

Napoleon and the battle of the rabbits

This battle happened in July 1807, after Napoleon signed 1 _____ Treaties of Tilsit. To celebrate the occasion, he proposed a rabbit hunt with his men and asked Alexandre Berthier 2 _____ it.

Berthier collected somewhere 3 _____ several hundred and 3,000 rabbits. On the day of the hunt the cages with rabbits were placed all along the edges of a massive field. When Napoleon and his guests arrived, the animals 4 _____ and the hunt began. However, instead of running away the rabbits bombarded Napoleon and his men. There were so many of them that Napoleon had to escape in his carriage. Why were the rabbits so courageous? The answer is simple: Berthier did not trap wild rabbits, he simply took tame rabbits raised 5 _____ farmers in nearby towns. And these were not afraid of humans.

1	A a	B the	C -	D some
2	A to be organized	B organizing	C organize	D to organize
3	A between	B among	C with	D from
4	A had been released	B did release	C were released	D released
5	A from	B with	C by	D for

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TASK 9

How Charlie Chaplin failed

Charlie Chaplin will always be regarded as one of 1 _____ comedians of all time and a pioneer of film comedy. 2 _____ 1915 and 1921 there was a popular rumour that Chaplin entered 3 _____ Chaplin look-alike contest and lost. This was not an unbelievable story and in fact, if Chaplin ever entered such a contest he probably made sure that he didn't win just so that he could 4 _____ the absurdity of the situation.

5 _____ August of 1920, The Straits Times from Singapore was the first newspaper to publish the story of Chaplin entering a contest and trying to impersonate himself, but we will probably never know how true it was.

1	A the most iconic	B more iconic	C iconicer	D the iconicest
2	A Between	B From	C Since	D With
3	A -	B the	C an	D a
4	A enjoyed	B would enjoy	C have enjoyed	D enjoy
5	A On	B In	C At	D From

TASK 10

The biggest human migration on Earth

Chunyun (The Lunar New Year), or spring migration, is the world's largest annual human migration. The migration lasts 1 _____ 40 days. The Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, is the most important holiday in the Chinese cultural calendar. It 2 _____ as a time of family reunions and reconnection, prompting separated members to travel long distances and sit together at one table. No matter how far parents or their offspring have to travel in China, they are always willing 3 _____ the journey home during The Chinese New Year. College students and migrant workers are the main travellers during the holiday. These workers usually come from the rural parts of China. 4 _____ long distances to find work opportunities, they move to big cities far from home. For many, the Chinese New Year is their only holiday, and a rare chance to spend time with family – including their children, who are normally 5 _____ in the care of grandparents.

1	A for	B from	C since	D under
2	A has seen	B was seen	C is seen	D sees
3	A make	B to make	C making	D having made
4	A Travelling	B Travel	C Travelled	D Will travel
5	A been left	B being left	C leave	D left

TASK 11

The 50-Star American flag got a B as a school project

The flag we know today and its arrangement of stars 1 _____ by a high schooler – before Alaska and Hawaii were even states. It was 1958, and America only contained 48 United States. The flag at that time 2 _____ six rows of eight stars. Heft's history teacher assigned a class project, asking to redesign the flag. Heft decided to use the flag he had at home and added some changes to his 3 _____ 48-star flag. His teacher, however, was not impressed and gave the project a B minus. But Heft protested the low grade. His teacher told him 4 _____ it accepted into Washington if he wanted a better grade.

Heft spent the next two years making calls and writing letters to the White House. After Alaska and Hawaii gained statehood, Heft got the call he'd been hoping for. President Eisenhower told him that his flag design 5 _____ out of over a thousand. And, yes, his teacher did update his grade to an A.

1	A designed	B was designed	C has designed	D was been designed
2	A featured	B features	C featuring	D has featured
3	A parent	B parent's	C parents	D parents'
4	A to get	B get	C got	D to have got
5	A chose	B was chosen	C had chosen	D had been chosen