Part 4

Questions 23 – 30

For Examiner's Use

Read the text about a newly qualified veterinary surgeon who is travelling to a job interview.

Circle the correct answer **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

There is an example **(0)** at the beginning.

Memories of a Veterinary Surgeon

It was hot in the little bus to Darrowby and I was on the wrong side where the sun shone on the windows. I moved uncomfortably inside my best suit and eased a finger inside the tight white collar of my shirt. It was a foolish outfit for this weather, but, some miles ahead, my prospective employer was waiting for me and I had to make a good impression.

6 Some of my happiest years had previously been spent back in that **old building in Glasgow**, storing fragments of knowledge like a squirrel with its nuts. I began with botany and the study of the lowest forms of life, working up to lectures and experiments on animal anatomy. Then I was introduced to pathology and the secrets of diseases, followed by surgery and drugs; the application of my learning to the everyday troubles of animals.

There was a lot hanging on this interview. Being a newly qualified vet surgeon usually meant becoming one of the unemployed. I had almost given up any hope of actually working as a veterinary surgeon, having seen friends who had graduated with me applying for jobs in the shipyards. Many tried to join the army, but the government said "NO" to a career in the army for new graduates.

There were usually only two or three vacant job positions advertised weekly in the newspaper and over eighty applicants for each one! I thought it was a mistake when the letter came from Darrowby, Yorkshire. Mr. Siegfried Farnon, a veterinary surgeon, would like to see me on Friday. I was to come to tea, and, if we got on well, I could start as his assistant.

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I had never been in Yorkshire before, but the name had always created the image of a region that was dull and unromantic. I was prepared for loneliness and a lack of charm, but as the bus groaned its way higher, I began to wonder. We moved from dark mountains to beautiful grassy hills and wide valleys. In the valley bottoms, isolated pale grey-stone farmhouses stood in the cultivated land.

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As I neared my destination, horror stories which I'd heard told by hardworking and ambitious assistants made bitter by months of practice invaded my mind. Dave Stevens: "Never a night off or a half day. My employer made me wash the car, do the family shopping. But when he told me to sweep the chimney I left." Or Willie Johnston: "First job I had to pass a tube into a horse's stomach and got it into the wrong place. Down went the horse — dead as a hammer. That's when I started getting these grey hairs."

The bus clattered along a narrow neat street leading to a square where we stopped. Above the window of a modest grocer shop was written "Darrowby Co-operative Society." We had arrived. There was something I had never experienced before and could not recognise at first. Then I realised what it was: the other passengers had disappeared, the driver had switched off his engine and there was not a sound or a movement anywhere. The only visible sign of life was a group of old men, as if carved from stone, sitting round the magnificent clock tower.

Darrowby was described in guidebooks as a little town on the river Darrow, with an old-fashioned market place and little of interest except its two ancient bridges. But when you looked at it, its setting on the river was stunning, with its stone houses clustered tightly together. Everywhere in Darrowby, in the streets, through the windows of the red-floored houses you could see the wonderful dark green slopes of the surrounding hills.

From the square, I had my first sight of Skeldale House with its fine, white-painted windows wide and graceful on the ground floor but small and square far above. I could tell it was the right place before I was near enough to read "S. Farnon M.R.C.V.S." on the door. It was what the letter had said — the only house with ivy, the dark green leaves of which climbed untidily to the highest windows. This could be where I would work for the first time as a veterinary surgeon.

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Example

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0 On his way to Darrowby, what mistake did the writer feel he had made?

A taking the wrong means of transport

B wearing unsuitable clothes

C choosing the wrong seat

D travelling at the wrong time

23 The **"old building in Glasgow"** in line 6 refers to a

A college.

B laboratory.

C hospital.

D pharmacy.

24 Before receiving the letter, the writer felt he was very likely to

A work in the shipyards.

B remain unemployed.

C join the army.

D become a vet surgeon.

25 What had surprised the writer about the offer he received?

A He was given the wrong job.

B He was contacted by letter.

C He was invited to tea.

D He was chosen for an interview.

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26 What was the writer's impression of Yorkshire as the bus drove through it?

A It was more appealing than he had expected.

B Fewer people lived there than he had imagined.

C Travelling around it was more difficult than he had thought.

D The landscape wasn't as strange as he had believed it would be.

27 Why does the writer refer to stories told by other assistants?

A to criticise the mistakes vet assistants would make

B to praise the effort that vet assistants were ready to put in

C to show the challenges vet assistants might face

D to highlight the skills that vet assistants could acquire

28 On arriving in Darrowby, what did the writer find unusual about the town?

A the width of the streets

B the beauty of the clock

C the appearance of the shops

D the lack of activity

29 In paragraph 8, what did the writer find particularly beautiful in Darrowby?

A the style of the market place

B the design of the bridges

C the colour of the houses

D the views from the town

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30 How did the writer first identify Skeldale House?

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A by the architecture of the building

B by the plant growing on the walls

C by the name written on the plate

D by the colour of the windows

[8 marks]

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Part 5

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Questions 31 – 40

Read the text about El Niño, a special change in climate that happens every few years and complete the notes.

Use **ONE WORD** from the text for each gap.

There is an example **(0)** at the beginning.

Understanding El Niño

El Niño is a series of climatic changes affecting the equatorial Pacific region and beyond every few years. “El Niño”, the Spanish word for "the child", was originally used by fishermen along the Pacific coasts of South America to refer to a warm ocean movement that usually appears around December, near Christmas, hence its name and lasts for several months. There are fewer fish during these warm periods, so fishermen often stay on land to repair their equipment and spend time with their families. In some years, however, the water is especially warm and they are forced to take a break from the end of the year into May or even June. Over the years, the term "El Niño" has come to refer to a climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean which also has an impact on global weather patterns.

In order to know how El Niño works, it is important to understand what conditions are like in the Pacific Ocean without El Niño. Typically, winds blow west across the Pacific, away from South America and towards Asia. These winds pile up warm water in the west Pacific, so that the sea surface is about 1 to 2 feet higher in the west than in the east and also about 8 degrees Celsius warmer. The ocean is usually cooler off the coast of South America because of cold water which comes up from deeper levels of the ocean. The food carried by this cold water movement supports the marine environment and feeds the fish in that part of the Pacific.

During an El Niño, however, the regular winds become weaker in the central and western Pacific and may blow eastwards towards South America. Surface water temperatures off the coast of South America warm up because there is less cold water from below to cool the surface. The clouds and rainstorms that come with warm ocean waters also shift toward the east, and these movements generate so much energy in the atmosphere that weather changes are caused all over the planet.

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El Niños generally occur every three to five years but may come as frequently as every two years or as rarely as every seven years. Each El Niño usually lasts nine to 12 months. They often begin to form in spring, becoming strongest between December and January, and then dying down by May of the following year. The force of an El Niño can differ greatly between cycles.

Scientists announce an official El Niño when they see both ocean temperatures rising and storms moving to the east. They also look for the regular winds becoming weaker and moving in the opposite direction. Scientists cannot predict an El Niño exactly because they do not yet understand in detail what causes it. However, they can still diagnose the common features of El Niño, which is why they can come up with approximate forecasts of it, although it will not be the same every time.

The warmer waters in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean have important effects on the world's weather. The greatest impacts are generally not felt in the Northern hemisphere until winter or spring, but the 1982-83 El Niño, for example, caused more than $10 billion in weather-related damage worldwide.

An El Niño creates more stable air over the Atlantic, which makes it harder for hurricanes to form in that ocean. However, the warmer-than-average ocean temperatures in the Pacific lead to more hurricanes there and more active tropical storm seasons. There is much heavier rain in some regions of South America during an El Niño because wet air from the warmer ocean water causes thunderstorms. Fish catches off the coast of South America are typically lower than normal because the marine life migrates north and south, following colder water. In the Southern Hemisphere generally, temperatures are hotter than average and the effects of El Niño can be huge, severely affecting crops in southern Africa, Asia and Australia.

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El Niño

Example

- El Niño: a series of climate changes taking place in the Pacific Ocean
- in English, El Niño means the **(0)** __ ***Child*** __
- fishermen often have a **(31)** _____ from fishing for several months because of El Niño

What happens normally

- under normal **(32)** _____ winds blow westward across the Pacific
- sea level and sea temperature higher in the west Pacific than in the east
- sea creatures depend on **(33)** _____ brought by cool water movements

What happens during El Niño

- warmer sea waters off South America
- huge quantities of **(34)** _____ released into the air by warm sea waters
- El Niño happens at least once every **(35)** _____ years
- change of wind **(36)** _____ is a sign of an El Niño
- **(37)** _____ made by researchers and experts are not exact

The results

- many impacts on global weather
- **(38)** _____ caused by a strong El Niño cycle can be costly
- higher than average quantities of **(39)** _____ in parts of South America
- smaller-than-usual fish catch in South America
- failure of **(40)** _____ in some parts of Africa, Australia and Asia

[10 marks]

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