

PRACTICE

Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct word or phrase that best fits each of the numbered blanks

Human beings are extremely diverse in very many ways. People (34) _____ in opinions, race, nationality, gender, age, sexuality, ethnicity, class, religion, lifestyle and so much more, yet at the very basic we are all human species. Ideally, (35) _____ people feel pain and joy despite the differences. Today, the changes in time and technology have made it extremely impossible for any group of people to live without interacting with other outside their group. Often, people of different cultural and geographical (36) _____ meet in international conferences, education exchange programs, sports, etc.

Sadly, the history of mankind discriminating against each other based on cultural differences has been with us for ages. So many people have died or have been denied their rights (37) _____ individual greed. Properties and economies have also been destroyed due to lack of understanding. Unfortunately, some of these occurrences are visible even today, perpetuated by people (38) _____ little understand the importance of the uniqueness of our diversity.

(Source: <https://www.springbreakwatches.com>)

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|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Question 34: A. differ | B. distinguish | C. separate | D. disagree |
| Question 35: A. little | B. much | C. every | D. all |
| Question 36: A. backgrounds | B. settings | C. identities | D. evidences |
| Question 37: A. thanks to | B. because of | C. despite | D. though |
| Question 38: A. which | B. whom | C. who | D. whose |

Through the centuries, the dream of medieval alchemists was to discover how to turn lead and (34) _____ "base" metals into gold. Some were fakes, but many were learned men with philosophical goals. Their (35) _____ was based on the ancient idea that all matter consists of different proportions of just four substances - earth, water, fire, and air. They believed that it was possible to adjust the proportions of the elements that made up lead by chemical means so that it turned into gold, a process called transmutation. Their experiments were concerned with finding the substance - (36) _____ they called the *philosopher's stone* - that, when added to lead, would cause this astonishing change to take place. Alchemists also searched for the *elixir of life*, a substance that could cure diseases and (37) _____ life. They failed on both counts. (38) _____, their techniques for preparing and studying chemicals helped lay the foundation for the modern science of chemistry.

(Adapted from "VSTEP Collection")

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|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| Question 34: A. another | B. others | C. other | D. one |
| Question 35: A. expedition | B. quest | C. adventure | D. investigation |
| Question 36: A. which | B. who | C. where | D. whose |
| Question 37: A. prolong | B. lengthen | C. expand | D. increase |
| Question 38: A. Despite | B. However | C. Furthermore | D. Therefore |

One of the main causes of pressure on children today is the increased use of social media. Nowadays, children spend (34) _____ hours interacting with social media platforms. It is thought that this has led to pressures to maintain a particular image. If children share an image or video online, the number of likes or comments can have a dramatic effect on how they feel about themselves. They also feel under pressure to maintain a particular image to show how exciting their lifestyle is. (35) _____, there is a constant focus on their social lives, and they feel judged about their vacations and the things they like and do. In addition to pressures from social media, children are feeling increasing pressure from living in an environment (36) _____ they are always in contact with people. Previously, if a child had a difficult time with friends, they could leave this behind at school. The shift to smartphones has meant that this has become increasingly difficult. A number of surveys have (37) _____ how not being able to switch off and walk away has increased stress levels for children. If technological (38) _____ was limited, it would significantly reduce stress levels for young people.

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|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Question 34: A. few | B. a little | C. much | D. many |
| Question 35: A. Therefore | B. Moreover | C. However | D. Otherwise |
| Question 36: A. which | B. when | C. where | D. why |
| Question 37: A. displayed | B. highlighted | C. demonstrated | D. presented |
| Question 38: A. access | B. development | C. advance | D. approach |

THE SECRETS OF LONG LIFE

Marge Jetton is speeding down the motorway in her purple car. Marge, (39)_____ recently turned 101, is late for one of several volunteer commitments she has today. Already this morning, she has eaten breakfast, walked 1.6 km, and lifted weights.

Like (40)_____ other residents of Loma Linda, California, Marge is a member of a religious community that has always supported healthy living. It (41)_____ smoking and drinking alcohol, and discourages the (42)_____ of most meat, rich foods, and caffeinated drinks as well as most spices. Instead, they enjoy beans, nuts, whole wheat bread, soy milk, tomatoes, and other fruits as well as five glasses of water a day.

All of these lower the risk of developing certain diseases. (43)_____, they get together and socialize with each other to relieve stress every Saturday. A study has revealed that members of this community live four to ten years longer than other Californians.

(Adapted from *Close up B1-Student's book*)

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|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Question 39: A. which | B. that | C. who | D. whom |
| Question 40: A. many | B. few | C. each | D. much |
| Question 41: A. excludes | B. prevents | C. halts | D. forbids |
| Question 42: A. digestion | B. consumption | C. storage | D. intake |
| Question 43: A. However | B. Because | C. Moreover | D. Although |

CAN WE CHANGE THE CLIMATE?

It may seem hard to believe that people can actually change the Earth's climate. But scientists think that the things people do that send greenhouse gases into the air are making our planet warmer. Once, all climate changes occurred naturally. (34)_____, during the Industrial Revolution, we began altering our climate and environment through agricultural and industrial practices. The Industrial Revolution was a time (35)_____ people began using machines to make life easier. It started more than 200 years ago and (36)_____ the way humans

live. Before the Industrial Revolution, human activity released very few gases into the atmosphere, but now through population growth, fossil fuel burning, and deforestation, we are affecting the mixture of gases in the atmosphere. Since the industrial revolution, the need for energy to run (37)_____ has steadily increased. Some energy, like the energy you need to do your homework, comes from the food you eat. But other energy, like the energy that makes cars run and (38)_____ of the energy used to light and heat our homes, comes from fuels like coal and oil – fossil fuels. Burning these fuels releases greenhouse gases.

(Adapted from: <https://www.monografias.com/trabajos64/global-warming/global-warming2>)

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|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Question 34: A. Otherwise | B. However | C. Therefore | D. Although |
| Question 35: A. which | B. that | C. when | D. whom |
| Question 36: A. turned | B. transformed | C. converted | D. changed |
| Question 37: A. appliances | B. tools | C. machines | D. devices |
| Question 38: A. much | B. every | C. few | D. many |

Do you have a mobile phone? It can be so useful! Mobile phones help people (34)_____ in touch with friends and family. Many mobile phones also provide entertainment. They're full of games and (35)_____ other apps to keep people occupied. If you were to ask most mobile phone users, they'd say their mobile phone definitely makes life easier!

(36)_____, most people don't know about the impact mobile phones have on our ecosystem. If you have ever looked at the inside of a mobile phone, you know they're made of many types of metals. The process of mining for these metals is one major way mobile phones affect the ecosystem. When people mine for metals, (37)_____ waste is created. It hurts both aquatic and plant life if not disposed of properly. In addition, mining for our phones adds to deforestation as a large number of trees are cut down for mining every year. Moreover, mining for phone production puts more carbon into the air, (38)_____ adds to climate change, another major concern for our ecosystem. The impact of mobile phones on our ecosystem is expected to grow as many people replace their phones after using them for just a few years and send their old phones straight to a landfill.

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|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 34: A. have | B. live | C. keep | D. lose |
| Question 35: A. many | B. much | C. every | D. another |
| Question 36: A. Therefore | B. However | C. Although | D. Moreover |
| Question 37: A. endangered | B. disposable | C. industrious | D. hazardous |
| Question 38: A. where | B. which | C. that | D. when |