PRACTICE TEST 4 – V2

SECTION A. LISTENING (50 points)

Part 1. You are going to hear a talk. As you listen, fill in the missing information. For questions 1-15, write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS in the spaces provided. You will listen twice. Write your answers in the boxes provided.

How humanity got hooked on coffee

One day around 850 CE, a (1) _____ named Kaldi observed that, after nibbling on some berries, his goats started acting abnormally. Kaldi tried them himself, and soon enough he was just as (2) _____.

When exactly people began (3) _____ coffee is unclear but at some point before the 1400s, in what's now Ethiopia, people began foraging for wild coffee in the forest undergrowth.

People caught on to coffee's advantages and began making tea from its (4) _____; combining its berries with butter and salt for a sustaining snack; and drying, roasting, and simmering its cherries into an energizing elixir.

Coffee (5) _____ into the Middle East, and its widespread popularity began brewing in earnest in the 1450s. Upon returning from a visit to Ethiopia, a Sufi leader recommended that worshippers in Yemen use coffee during ritual chants and dances.

But authorities grew concerned about whether coffee's influence was (6) _____, and if Muslims should be allowed to drink it.

Indeed, in 1511, a religious court in Mecca put coffee on trial. Scholars finally deemed it (7) _____, so coffeehouses sprang up in Damascus, Istanbul, and beyond, where clientele could sip coffee, smoke, and enjoy a variety of entertainment.

Meanwhile, the Ottoman Empire introduced the (8) _____ to Europe. Central London's first coffeehouses opened in the (9) _____. By 1663 there were more than 80. And despite King Charles II's attempt to ban them in 1675, coffeehouses kept (10) _____ as social and intellectual hotbeds. In 1679, for instance, patrons of Garraway's coffeehouse had the pleasure of watching Robert Hooke, the scientist who coined the term "cell," publicly (11) _____.

Granted, these were likely small servings of comparatively weak coffee but still, impressive. Meanwhile, (12) _____ began profiting off coffee-growing, establishing enslaved or exploited workforces in Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

As cultivation boomed in Latin America, fueled by slavery, growers displaced (13) _____ populations and burned forests to establish ever-expanding plantations.

Yet coffee workers worldwide continued to endure inhumane conditions and insufficient compensation. This motivated certification efforts for coffee production that met (14) _____, including minimum wage and sustainable farming. But issues still loom over the industry. Scientists are investigating possibilities like resilient coffee hybrids that might help weather the unpredictable future all to protect the beverage that's become a cherished part of (15) _____ worldwide.

Part 2. You will hear part of an interview with two sports psychologists called Sheila Forbes and Peter Maxton. (WHILE LISTENING TO THE INTERVIEW, YOU MUST COMPLETE BOTH TASKS, TASK 1 AND TASK 2 AT THE SAME TIME). You will listen twice.

Task 1: For questions 16-20, decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

16. Sheila trains players to be more confident themselves on the pitch and not be frightened by the apparent confidence of their opponents.
17. Sheila has never worked in any other sports except for football during her career.
18. In Sheila's opinion, a sport psychologist should understand the mental demands of the sports, and be able to adapt his or her work so that it becomes suitable to the performance environment.
19. Peter used to be a professional sportsperson when he was a student.
20. Peter hopes the use of psychology will become more popular in the world of sport.

Task 2: For questions 21-25, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

21. Sheila explains that her role involves _____.

A. preventing player from becoming over-confident
B. responding to whatever players feel they need to improve
C. enabling players to train aggressively

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D. persuading players that her techniques can really benefit them
22. Sheila says one strategy she uses to achieve her goals is to _____.
A. encourage players to replicate good features of others' performance
B. ask players to share with her the way they control their anxieties
C. get players to examine their effectiveness as team members
D. trace the causes of negative thinking in players
23. Sheila and Peter both think that it's important for sports psychologists _____.
A. to have wide experience in a range of different sports
B. not to raise false hopes about what they can achieve
C. not to become too immersed in the environment of sport
D. to adapt the decisions they make to suit individual situations
24. What was Peter's reaction to his deteriorating sporting performance as a student?
A. He felt disappointed at the lack of relevant help available.
B. He redoubled his efforts to succeed despite failing health.
C. He became desperate to uncover the source of his problem.
D. He switched to what he felt were easier sports to succeed in.
25. What does Peter dislike about his job?
A. Needing always to be creative in his choice of techniques
B. Having constantly to work in different environments
C. Being criticised for ineffective working methods
D. Feeling he has to justify his achievements to others

SECTION B. LEXICO – GRAMMAR (20 points)
Part 1. For questions 1-12, choose the best answer to complete each of the following sentences. Write A, B, C or D in the corresponding numbered boxes.
1. It was the best holiday ever because for once everyone got along _____.
A. distinctively B. famously C. notoriously D. prominently
2. From an early age, their parents _____ them the importance of honesty and integrity, values they carried into adulthood.
A. fetched out B. bargained for C. drummed into D. drove at
3. Almost everyone voiced their approval of his proposal that a special scheme _____ to tackle unemployment.
A. is adopted B. be adopted C. will be adopted D. has to be adopted
4. They tried to _____ the importance of a good education into their children.
A. highlight B. instill C. impress D. underline
5. "The meeting is going to be postponed till Friday." "Oh, I'd prefer _____ as I won't be able to attend."
A. if it isn't B. if it hasn't been C. it if it weren't D. it hadn't been
6. She looked at the two versions of the same book; then she decided on _____.
A. the more expensive one out of the two B. the one that is more expensive than the two
C. the more expensive of the two D. the less expensive than the two
7. Without a strong _____ to succeed, many talented individuals find themselves struggling to achieve their full potential.
A. drive B. sense C. character D. state
8. The environmental report struck a warning _____ about the rapid deforestation in the area, urging immediate action to prevent irreversible damage to the ecosystem.
A. sound B. tone C. note D. beat
9. It is the secretary's job to inform all _____.
A. the concerned in the project people B. the people concerned in the project
C. the concerned people in the project D. the people in the project concerned

Choose the best answer A, B, C, or D to indicate the word CLOSEST in meaning to the underlined word(s) in the following question.
10. Jogging has been **endorsed** by many medical authorities as valuable exercises for the heart and for general physical conditioning.
A. reported B. supported C. criticized D. exaggerated

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Choose the best answer A, B, C, or D to indicate the words OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined words in the following question.

11. If you say bad things about the person who gives a job, you **bite the hand that feeds you**.

A. be unfriendly B. be ungrateful C. be thankful D. be devoted

Choose the best answer A, B, C, or D to indicate the sentence that best completes the following exchange.

12. *Tom and Jane are talking about their plan for the weekend.*

Tom: "I'm going to spend the weekend sitting in front of the television."

Jane: "_____"

A. Oh dear, so you're in the doghouse again? B. Get a life.

C. No way, you're pulling my leg! D. Hands off.

Part 2. Read the passage below, which contains 8 mistakes. For questions 13-20, identify the mistakes and write the corrections in the corresponding numbered boxes.

Beyond the spotlight: The fascination with fame

The allure of fame has been the enduring fascination for humanity, captivating people from all walks of life. It rises from a confluence of psychological, social, and cultural factors that fuel the universal desire for recognition.

One of the fundamental drivers behind the yearning for fame is the inherent human need to validation and belonging. The acknowledgement receiving from others can elevate an individual's self-esteem and social standing, instill a sense of significance and acceptance within society.

In the contemporary era of social media and celebrity culture, the influence of fame has soared to precedented heights. The association of fame with wealth, success and adulation creates an alluring visibility of achievement that many aspire to attain.

While fame can offer admiration and opportunities, it is essential to recognise that true fulfillment lies in pursuing one's passions and making a positive impact. Balancing personal aspirations with meaningful contributions to society ensure a more profound sense of contentment on the journey of life.

	Mistakes	Correction		Mistakes	Correction
13			17		
14			18		
15			19		
16			20		

SECTION C. READING (70 points)

Part 1. For questions 1-10, read the passage and choose the best answer. Write your answers A, B, C or D in the corresponding numbered boxes.

Call for Urgent Fundraising: Aid for Yagi Storm Victims

The Yagi storm has left a trail of destruction, displacing thousands and robbing them of their homes, (1) _____, and, for some, their loved ones. The magnitude of the devastation is (2) _____, with entire neighborhoods reduced to (3) _____, essential infrastructure severely damaged, and critical supplies running perilously low.

In response to this (4) _____ situation, we are urgently calling for your support in a fundraising initiative aimed at delivering immediate aid to those in need. Funds (5) _____ will directly provide emergency relief: food, clean water, medical assistance, and temporary shelter, along with long-term recovery efforts to rebuild homes and restore a (6) _____ of stability to these shattered communities.

We are appealing to your generosity. Every donation, no matter how (7) _____, has the power to transform lives in this moment of crisis. If you are (8) _____ to contribute financially, please help by spreading awareness and encouraging others to participate.

Let's stand in (9) _____ with the Yagi storm victims and demonstrate that, even in the face of adversity, our compassion knows no bounds. Donations can be made via our official channels or at designated (10) _____ points across the city.

1. A. incomes B. earnings C. livelihoods D. livings

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2. A. overwhelming	B. predictable	C. manageable	D. surprising
3. A. ashes	B. prosperity	C. rubble	D. silence
4. A. joyful	B. dire	C. routine	D. unexpected
5. A. increased	B. raised	C. collected	D. borrowed
6. A. perception	B. sense	C. symbol	D. signal
7. A. modest	B. large	C. unnecessary	D. luxurious
8. A. unable	B. able	C. incompetence	D. talented
9. A. distance	B. confrontation	C. solidarity	D. disagreement
10. A. collection	B. collect	C. collective	D. collected

Part 2. For questions 11-20, fill in the gap with ONE most suitable word. Write the answers in the corresponding numbered boxes.

Pickleball

Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis without being a pale (11) _____ of any of them. In fact, its unique characteristics have helped it to gain attraction in (12) _____ years. Pickleball has easy-to-learn rules, and this simplicity contributes (13) _____ its accessibility. The relatively small court size used to play the game is also said to make the sport more enjoyable for beginners and old hands (14) _____.

The surge in pickleball's popularity can be (15) _____ to its increased exposure through social media coverage and organised events. Tournaments and online platforms have helped to create a vibrant and inclusive community, (16) _____ attracting more players to the sport. Additionally, support from sports clubs, community centres and local authorities has led to the development of (17) _____ pickleball facilities, ensuring accessible and high-quality playing spaces.

One of pickleball's appealing aspects is its social nature. The sport fosters friendly competition and offers opportunities for (18) _____ interaction, which creates a welcoming atmosphere. Many players value the chance to connect with (19) _____ whilst engaging in physical activity.

As pickleball continues to expand, it is expected to establish a (20) _____ presence in the British sports scene.

Part 3. You are going to read a magazine article about work and holidays. For questions 21-28, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

No cure for the summertime blues

Paul Gould looks at the highs of going away and the lows as your post-holiday glow fades.

Irrespective of the destination, it's the coming back that hurts. As you trudge in to work and go back to the old routine, post-holiday blues hit whether you've been to a tropical paradise or simply spent a week at a local campsite. It is a recognized psychological pattern: we switch to a low after a high, we get **despondent** when a spell of basking in bliss is abruptly ended.

For me, that bliss was tasted at its most intoxicating two years ago in a secluded bay in southern Crete in Greece. At the time, a fortnight seemed to expand into a way of life. Days were taken up with massage, sunbathing, swimming and yoga. There was constant laughter amongst friends. Being a wage-slave seemed inconceivable: I was born to dance and sing and be pampered. This, I felt, was how life should be. More unsettling, though, was my conviction that life could be like this. If only I could cling on to this happy state, my potential for joy and creativity would be unlocked.

It couldn't last. The blues set in even before the holiday ended. What we needed, one of our group declared, was a post-holiday trauma support group. Is trauma too strong a word? Cary Cooper, professor of psychology at the University of Manchester, says the symptoms are undoubtedly genuine: 'It's things like being more aggressive or more withdrawn, mild depression, feeling tired even after a good night's sleep. Really, you're angry at the lifestyle you're re-entering but you can't take it out on your lifestyle so you take it out on other people.'

So what of my hope of clinging on to that holiday feeling? My resolutions were to continue yoga classes, to take up massage and to rise above stress. Couldn't I maintain that way of life? 'The reason you don't is that people get really absorbed in work, then get on the train or whatever, and by the time they get home they're exhausted and just flop in front of the TV,' says Professor Cooper. The post-holiday glow may last a day or two. There's the gratification of colleagues asking where you've been. It can be quite amusing for the first morning when you can show off by telling people you've been to exciting places having more fun than them. But then day-to-day hassles crowd in thick and fast. The holiday may well have seemed like ages at the time, but now it shrinks to a tiny blip. You feel cheated.

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Perhaps holidays give us an unrealistic taste of fantasy. I detect something altogether darker: they compel us to see how much aggravation, tedium and mediocrity we put up with the rest of the time. On a more paranoid note, is it possible we've been intoxicated by a cynical holidays industry? Are holidays just a mechanism whereby we swap our role as producers in the great big economic machine for that of the consumer? Professor Cooper confirms my fears: 'We go on holiday and become consumers and because work is so time-consuming, the way we justify it is to use the money to make us feel better about our limited existence, saying: "At least I can afford a nice holiday".' Surely we can't just blame the industry? Some of my best holidays have simply been times when I chose to hang out with friends, have long conversations, feel carefree. Professor Cooper believes these are opportunities that allow us to invest in relationships.

After a holiday, Professor Cooper advises going back to work gradually: 'Do only the stuff that needs immediate attention, leave on time, go to the gym.' Thank goodness work-life balance has entered public debate. It is high time we got agitated about the realisation that four weeks' holiday a year and a working week of 40 hours plus means we can set aside no time or energy for things that matter, such as our partners, our children, our friends, staying healthy, or cooking instead of ready meals. But Professor Cooper's advice so far can only help so much. A more revolutionary solution is downshifting. 'People see the gap between a normal human life and the treadmill existence and realize the cost is too great,' he says. 'So they think: "Why not work for a smaller company or set up on my own?"

Yet the long-hours culture is probably only part of the problem. That post-exotica depression is also brought on by sheer boredom, noisy neighbours or, worse, domestic issues causing tension. The traditional saying is 'There's no place like home' but it sometimes seems there's no place like away from it all. In his acclaimed book The Art of Travel, Alain de Botton sums up this yearning: 'Few seconds in life are more releasing than those in which a plane ascends to the sky... its ascent is a symbol of transformation. It can inspire us to imagine analogous, decisive shifts in our own lives; to imagine that we too might one day surge above much that looms over us.' So perhaps the only way to cure post-holiday blues is to start planning the next one as soon as you get back.

21. In paragraph 1, the writer suggests that post-holiday feelings of depression _____.

A. occur when a holiday has been cut short
B. happen regardless of the holiday location
C. arise when a holiday has not been satisfying
D. affect people with little variation in their work

22. The word "**despondent**" in paragraph 1 could be best replaced by _____.

A. dejected
B. disinterested
C. satisfied
D. interested

23. During his holiday in Crete, the writer was _____.

A. resentful about an illusion of happiness
B. certain he could maintain that way of living
C. determined to start working for himself
D. astonished at the change in his behaviour

24. What does Professor Cary Cooper believe about trauma?

A. People have a tendency to confuse stress with trauma.
B. It has a serious impact on performance at work.
C. Holidays can only increase trauma which already exists in a person.
D. It can cause people to behave in an unpleasant way towards others.

25. What are we told about people who have been back at work for a few days?

A. They feel as though the holiday they had was too short.
B. They exaggerate when describing it to their colleagues.
C. They lack the mental discipline to maintain a lifestyle change.
D. They underestimate the time they need to commit to work.

26. In paragraph 5, the writer states that going on holiday forces people to _____.

A. focus on relationships they have neglected
B. be keener to assert their superior social status
C. recognize the frustrations of everyday life
D. work longer hours in order to afford time off

27. In paragraph 6, one of the writer's aims is to _____.

A. encourage people to protest about their working hours
B. persuade people of the value of personal relationships
C. highlight which of Professor Cooper's proposals are valid
D. illustrate the advantages of people becoming self-employed

28. The writer's purpose in using the quotation from *The Art of Travel* is to _____.

A. contrast people's dreams with what they actually go on to achieve
B. promote the idea that risk-takers lead a more rewarding life
C. discourage people from settling down before they are ready
D. show the pleasure derived from dreaming about a different lifestyle

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Part 4. Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

Gesture

A

Gesture is any action that sends a visual signal to an onlooker. To become a gesture, an act has to be seen by someone else and has to communicate some pieces of information to them. It can do this either because the gesturer deliberately sets out to send a signal or it can do it only incidentally. The hand-wave is a Primary Gesture, because it has no other existence or function. Therefore, to make it a gesture, first, it should be clear and unambiguous. Others would be able to understand it instantly when it is shown to them. Nor may any component of a gesture, its force, its direction and amplitude of movement, be altered: otherwise, confusion or misunderstanding may occur.

B

Most people tend to limit their use of the term "gesture" to the primary form the hand-wave type - but this misses an important point. What matters with gesturing is not what signals we think we are sending out, but what signals are being received. The observers of our acts will make no distinction between our intentional primary gestures and our unintentional, incidental ones. This is why it is preferable to use the term "gesture" in its wider meaning as an "observed action". This can be compared to the ring of a telephone. The speed, tone and intensity of a telephone remain the same for any phone call. Even the length of time before being told that the number you are dialing is not answering, unless the caller hangs up, is the same.

C

Some gestures people use are universal. The shoulder shrug is a case in point. The shrug is done by bringing the shoulders up, drawing the head in, and turning the palms upwards so as to reveal that nothing is hidden. The shoulder shrug can also demonstrate submission or that what is being said isn't understood. Another example is that an angry person usually expresses his rage by waving his clenched fist rapidly and forcefully. Surprisingly, you may find that people of different cultures will do the same when they are offended. That is to say, a commonly accepted gesture is shared by them. But if the way the hand is clenched changes, or the amplitude of force and the direction the fist is waved alters, the gesture no longer means the same.

D

So, is gesture born with us or is it developed as we grow up? Recent research found that gesture is more like a spontaneous reaction when we face certain situations. And we just do that automatically. When people talk, they almost always gesture with their hands. This expressive movement can be coaxed into a choreographic form if observed carefully. People can practice spontaneous gesture by forming pairs, then observing and questioning each other. They then show the group what they have collected from their partners. It is fun to surprise a group using this technique. Because spontaneous gestures are often unconscious, people will sometimes be surprised to have their gestures mirrored back to them, saying "Did I really do that?"

E

The attention of research was also drawn to cultural themes. Researchers discovered that if a person has a good set of teeth, he or she would be prone to have a bigger smile than he or she should when good things happen. And if a person possesses a bad set of teeth, he or she would tend to have his or her mouth shut when being teased. And people's reaction to the same joke also varies: some laugh out loud while others titter. However, this does not cause confusion and it helps to develop our "behavioural", which is an important aspect of our identity. It was referred to as a Gesture Variant, which indicates that individuals' gesture production is a complex process, in which speakers' internal and external factors and interactions could play a role in multi-modal communication.

F

During the research, an interesting phenomenon soon caught researchers' attention. A hand purse gesture, which is formed by straightening the fingers and thumb of one hand and bringing them together so the tips touch, pointing upwards and shaping like a cone, carries different meanings in different countries. In Malta, it means heavy sarcasm: "you may seem good, but you are really bad."; in Tunisia, it is against recklessness, saying "slow down"; in Italy, it means "What's the matter?" or "What are you trying to say?"; in France, it means "I am afraid". However, this gesture has no clear meaning in American culture. And of course, the way the gesture is conducted is similar in different countries.

G

But what will happen if the gestures of different countries confront each other? The situation is further complicated by the fact that some gestures mean totally different things in different countries. To take one example, in Saudi Arabia, stupidity can be signalled by touching the lower eyelid with the tip of the forefinger. But this same gesture, in various other countries, can mean disbelief, approval, agreement, mistrust, scepticism, alertness, secrecy, craftiness, danger, or criminality. So people are faced with two basic problems where certain gestures are concerned: either one meaning may be signalled by different actions, or several meanings may be signalled by the same action, as we move from

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culture to culture. The only solution is to approach each culture with an open mind and learn their gestures as one would learn their vocabulary. These all require considerable skill and training and belong in a totally different world from the familiar gestures we employ in everyday life.

Questions 29-34
The Reading Passage has seven paragraphs, A-G.
Choose the correct heading for paragraph A-G and from the list of headings below.
Write the correct number, i-x, in boxes 29-34.
List of Headings

i The subconscious nature of gestures
ii The example of regional differences
iii The key factors of gestures
iv Sending out important signals
v How a well-known gesture loses its meaning
vi Performance in a specific setting
vii Recent research of Gesture Variant
viii Comparison to an everyday-use object
ix How will conflict be handled
x Individual deviation of cultural norms

Example Answer
Paragraph D i

29. Paragraph A _____
30. Paragraph B _____
31. Paragraph C _____
32. Paragraph E _____
33. Paragraph F _____
34. Paragraph G _____

Questions 35-36
Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.
Write your answers in boxes 35-36.

35. According to the passage, which aspect of the ringing of a telephone is compared with gestures?
A. The length of the ringing.
B. The unchanging sound of the ringing.
C. The telephone ringing intrudes upon our life.
D. The speed of ringing signals the urgency.
36. In which country should the gesture "Hand Purse" be used with caution?
A. Malta B. Tunisia C. Italy D. France

Questions 37-39
Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage?
In boxes 37-39, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

37. Angry people are often in the same age range or group.
38. Personal physical characteristics may affect the gesture used.
39. A Gesture Variant can still be understood by the members of the same culture.

Question 40
According to the passage, what is the writer's purpose in writing this passage?
Choose the correct letter A, B, C or D
Write you answer in box 40.

A. To clarify the origin of gesture-based communication
B. To promote the worldwide use of gestures
C. To investigate whether gesture use affects information content
D. To explain the concept of gesture

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Part 5: You are going to read an online article in which five professionals talk about critical thinking and reading. For questions 41-50, choose from the professionals (A-E). The professionals may be chosen more than once. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Which professional makes the following statements?

41. You should occasionally read texts that challenge what you believe.
42. Understanding the writer better will bring greater enjoyment.
43. You can be convinced by an argument despite the lack of logic in its presentation.
44. Sometimes you don't even need to read a text to know that it is worthless to you.
45. It is possible that closer analysis of a text will lead to greater self-knowledge.
46. You can be fooled by the professional-looking presentation of a text.
47. A text cannot be considered appropriate to use until you ascertain that is not biased.
48. It is important to develop an instinct for texts which are best avoided.
49. You need to express your opinion in combination with valid opinions you have read.
50. The writer's intention is that some messages are not immediately obvious.

Critical thinking and reading

Think about what you read and take nothing at face value - that's the message our five experts share.

A

As a student on a course of academic study, you will be required to present evidence of your own thinking in most things that you write. In order to reach that stage, you will necessarily have had to be critical of the things you read. The widespread availability of research papers on the Internet can undoubtedly make your studying easier. However, just because it has been made public, this is no guarantee of academic validity whatsoever. Has the paper been peer-reviewed, or is it the work of a lone writer who, for all we know, failed or never even finished the course? Print lends an air of authenticity but you need to be aware that, beyond the classy layout, suitable font and other nods to convention, content is king. This is where your thinking gets critical. If it doesn't, you are in big trouble.

B

With the wealth of information available, you sometimes need to make snap decisions about what it's worth dedicating your time to. Critical thinking aids this process and helps you skip things which are likely to be of little value to you. Sometimes a sensationalist title is enough to tell you that the writer has an axe to grind and is probably not going to be very objective. Be wary of this, whether in news reporting or in other areas that interest you. With a little more delving, a text can reveal giveaway clues that help you realise that the truth is somehow being distorted. Although it is human to make mistakes, writing which contains a number of them should not be trusted. If the same site regularly features writing like this, you can safely say that reliable information can be better sourced elsewhere. Steer clear of unreliable sites and publications completely and you will save a great deal of time.

C

Nowhere does using a little critical thinking pay better dividends than when you are reading literature or poetry. While a superficial reading of a story or poem can provide a pleasant distraction, those who dig deeper are rewarded with an infinitely more stimulating appreciation of an art form. Great works of art stand up to closer analysis precisely because they are crafted in such a way that there are manifold hidden gems to be discovered. Sometimes, the full significance of something might take a lifetime to appreciate, whereas just a little questioning about the use of a word, phrase, image or rhyme can more than repay you for your effort. Getting close to what the writer wants to convey is a labour of love, and it helps to open doors into hitherto unknown worlds.

D

Critical thinking when reading requires that you leave your own biases and prejudices at the door. Too many of us read things through the filter of our own beliefs. All that does is confirm what we already think, which could well be wrong. By all means, compare a text with ideas and beliefs of your own, and if the views tally with yours, great. But make sure you don't subconsciously select only these types of texts to read. Once in a while, seek out an opposing viewpoint and pay attention. Analyse the writer's ideas if they are different to what you think. Put yourself in that writer's place. Is he or she just as committed to their beliefs as you are to yours? If they are wrong, how is this possible? Deconstruct their argument. If you do it fairly, you might learn some surprising facts about yourself.

E

Text analysis operates on different levels and it is important to understand anything beneath the surface if you are to avoid getting carried away by the spirit or enthusiasm of a piece. Are the chosen words purely descriptive or overly emotive? Does the writer want you to go in a certain direction in your understanding of an issue, but without stating so explicitly? Think about examples; do they fully support the point the writer is making or is there a mismatch serving only the writer's hidden agenda? Is the opposing viewpoint sufficiently dealt with? Is it, in fact, raised at all? When

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you can process a text in this way, you can assess its worth as an independent piece of writing. Only then can you begin to evaluate the place it occupies in your own studies and its suitability for your purpose.

SECTION D. WRITING (60 points)

Part 1: Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first one. Use the word given in capital letters and the word mustn't be altered in any way.

1. There is no situation in which we will allow the management to lower wages. **NO**

→ Under _____the management to lower wages.

2. The difference between the two hair salons is their prices. **WHERE**

→ _____ in their prices.

3. They thought of the idea whilst playing around in the garage. **ABOUT**

→ They were playing around in the garage when the _____.

4. Could you ask them to hurry up? **GET**

→ Please tell them to _____ on.

5. Nobody expected Natalia to resign. **CAME**

→ Natalia's _____ everyone.

Part 2. Write a letter of about 80-100 words.

You are a student at a school where using smartphones is prevalent during school hours. Recently, you have noticed that students' academic performance has declined, and you believe it is due to the unrestricted use of smartphones at school. Write a letter to the principal expressing your concerns.

In your letter, you should:

- *describe how smartphone use is affecting students' education.*
- *explain why you think the current policy on smartphone use is problematic.*
- *suggest changes or improvements to the smartphone use policy.*

Use your name and address as Le Nguyen Bao Ngoc – 68 Minh Khai Street, Vinh City, Nghe An Province.

Part 3: Write an essay of about 350 words on the following topic.

Some people believe that the academic success of students depends on good teachers at schools. Others think that it depends on the attitude and determination of the students.

Discuss both views and give your own opinions.

Give reasons and relevant examples to support your answer.

_____THE END_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS