PHẦN 2: ĐỌC HIỂU – VSTEP

Thời gian: 60 phút
Số câu hỏi: 40

Directions: *In this section of the test, you will read FOUR different passages, each followed by 10 questions about it. For questions 1-40, you are to choose the best answer A, B, C, or D for each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen. Answer all questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.*

You have 60 minutes to answer all the questions, including the time to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

PASSAGE 1 – Questions 1-10

This rapid transcontinental settlement and these new urban industrial circumstances of the last half of the 19th century were accompanied by the development of a national literature of great abundance and variety. New themes, new forms, new subjects, new regions, new authors, new audiences all emerged in the literature of this half century. As a result, at the onset of World War I, the spirit and substance of American literature had **evolved** remarkably, just as its center of production had shifted from Boston to New York in the late 1880s and the sources of its energy to Chicago and the Midwest. No longer was **it** produced, at least in its popular forms, in the main by solemn, typically moralistic men from New England and the Old South; no longer were polite, well-dressed, grammatically correct, middle-class young people the only central characters in its narratives; no longer were these narratives to be set in **exotic** places and remote times; no longer, **indeed**, were fiction, poetry, drama, and formal history the chief acceptable forms of literary expression; no longer, finally, was literature read primarily by young, middle class women. In sum, American literature in **these years** fulfilled in considerable measure the condition Walt Whitman called for in 1867 in describing Leaves of Grass: it treats, he said of his own major work, each state and region as peers "and expands from them, and includes the world connecting an American citizen with the citizens of all nations". At the same time, these years saw the emergence of what has been

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designated "the literature of argument", powerful works in sociology, philosophy, psychology, many of them impelled by the spirit of exposure and reform. Just as America learned to play a role in this half century as an autonomous international political, economic, and military power, so did its literature establish itself as a producer of major works.

1. The main idea of this passage is_____.

A. that the new American literature was less provincial than the old

B. that World War I caused a dramatic change in America

C. that centers of culture shifted from East to West

D. that most people were wary of the new literature

2. It can be inferred that the previous passage probably discussed_____.

A. the importance of tradition to writers

B. new developments in industrialization and population shifts

C. the fashions and values of 19th century America

D. the limitations of American literature to this time

3. The word "<u>evolved</u>" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. became famous B. turned back

C. diminished D. changed

4. The word "<u>it</u>" in the passage refers to

A. the population B. the energy

C. American literature D. the manufacturing

5. The word "<u>exotic</u>" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. urban B. unusual

C. well-known D. old-fashioned

6. The author uses the word "<u>indeed</u>" in the passage for what purpose?

A. To emphasize the contrast he is making

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B. For variety in a lengthy paragraph

C. To wind down his argument

D. To show a favorable attitude to these forms of literature

7. The phrase "<u>these years</u>" in the passage refers to_____.

A. 1850-1900 B. the 1900s

C. the early 1800s D. the present

8. It can be inferred from the passage that Walt Whitman_____.

A. disliked urban life

B. was disapproving of the new literature

C. wrote Leaves of Grass

D. was an international diplomat

9. All of the following can be inferred from the passage about the new literature EXCEPT____.

A. It was not highly regarded internationally.

B. It introduced new American themes, characters, and settings.

C. It broke with many literary traditions of the past.

D. It spoke to the issue of reform and change.

10. This passage would probably be read in which of the following academic courses?

A. European history B. American literature

C. Current events D. International affairs

PASSAGE 2 – Questions 11-20

When Daniel Boone died peacefully in bed in his son Nathan's elegant stone Missouri farmhouse on September 26,1820, the surge of emigrants along the Oregon Trail was still a generation away. But Boone already exemplified the pioneer at his best. He was neither the physical giant (five feet nine) nor the innocent child of nature that legend has made of him. He was an intelligent, soft spoken family man who cherished the same wife for 57 years. He befriended Indians, preferred company to solitude, and when he told his wife it was time to move because a newcomer had settled some 70 miles away, he was

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joking. Pennsylvania- born, Boone was one of 11 children in a family of Quakers who migrated to North Carolina. There Boone was recruited at age 40 to undertake a scheme designed to open up Kentucky to settlers and establish it as a 14th colony. He arranged a deal by which the Cherokees sold 20 million acres for $20,000 worth of goods to Boone's employers, the Transylvania Company. It was all **fair and square** the Indians had an attorney, an interpreter, and the sound advice of their squaws. The deal completed, Boone led a party from Tennessee through the Cumberland Gap, hacked out the Wilderness Road, and set up a town Boonesboro and a government. Elected a legislator, he introduced on the first session's first day a bill to protect game against wanton slaughter and a second bill to "improve the breed of horses." He got 2,000 acres for his work, but after the Revolution in which Boone won considerable fame as a militia commander the scheme of the Transylvania Company was declared illegal and Boone lost his land. **Undaunted**, he staked out more claims and lost them because he impatiently neglected to register his deeds. Ever hopeful, he accepted an invitation from Spanish-held Missouri to come and settle there and bring others with him. The Spanish gave him 8,500 acres and made him a judge. But the Louisiana Purchase, which embraced Missouri, again left him but not his children landless. Old and broke, Boone cheerfully continued hunting and trapping long after his hands shook. Shortly before he died, he was talking knowledgeably with young men about the joys to be experienced in settling California.

11. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?

A. To chronicle the life of a model pioneer

B. To romanticize the legend of Daniel Boone

C. To show Boone's many successes on the frontier

D. To trace Boone's explorations in Kentucky, Missouri, and Louisiana

12. It can be inferred that one area in which Boone was NOT successful was_____.

A. politics

B. hunting and trapping

C. business

D. the military

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13. The phrase "fair and square" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. honest
B. simple
C. efficient
D. lucrative

14. It can be inferred from the passage that Boone died_____.

A. a rich man
B. an eternal optimist
C. in California
D. a lonely trapper

15. According to the passage, where is Boone's namesake city located?

A. In North Carolina
B. In Transylvania
C. In Kentucky
D. In Missouri

16. The Transylvania Company wanted Boone to_____.

A. settle Kentucky
B. ensure animal rights
C. be fair to the Indians
D. claim Missouri

17. The word "undaunted" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. unscrupulous
B. fearless
C. undiscouraged
D. uninformed

18. According to the passage, the Louisiana Purchase_____.

A. legitimized Boone's land claim in Missouri
B. revoked the earlier Spanish bequest to Boone
C. drove the Spanish from the East
D. excluded Missouri from its jurisdiction

19. What can be inferred from the passage about Boone's children?

A. They were better off financially than Boone.
B. They supported Boone's desire to settle new areas.
C. They lived in Kentucky.
D. They had no land due to Boone's bad investments.

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20. The author's attitude toward Daniel Boone in the passage can be best described as_____.

A. admiring B. critical

C. admonishing D. indifferent

PASSAGE 3 – Questions 21-30

The Solar System, as we know it, contains over 178 objects which revolve around our central star, or the Sun. Some of these objects can be seen from Earth with the unaided eye or an earth-based telescope, but the majority have only been detected through the development of instruments such as the Hubble Space Telescope, or unmanned probes like Voyager. These instruments operate outside Earth's atmosphere collecting information on the **composition** and behavior of objects in the Solar System, which has enabled researchers to hypothesize their origins.

[A] It is generally thought that a cloud of interstellar gas and dust known as a 'nebula', was **disturbed** by some major event in space, possibly a supernova, about five billion years ago and began to collapse under its own gravity, forming a cloud. **[B]** The center of the cloud became so hot that it eventually exploded into a star with the cooler gases flowing around it. **[C]** In time, the gases condensed into dust, metals, and various kinds of ice in the cold outer reaches of space. **[D]** These solid particles collided with each other to form larger objects, or asteroids, as they continued to spin around our central star.

As these asteroids increased in size, their gravity began to pull in all the material in their immediate surroundings, and the largest of these went on to become planets. **The very different composition of the inner planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars) and the outer planets (Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus) has led astronomers to hypothesize that their distances from the Sun caused them to develop at different rates and in different ways.** According to the most widely-held opinions, the planets closest to the Sun, where all the ice particles were vaporized due to the incredible heat, were formed mostly of rock, silicates, and metals with high melting points. These particles collided and were pulled together by gravity. These inner planets have thin atmospheres or none at all, and few, if any, satellites, which would indicate that most of the available material was either pulled into their own gravity or burned away in the heat of the Sun.

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The inner and outer planets are separated by an asteroid belt, consisting of material that was not able to form into planets due to Jupiter's immense gravity. Beyond this area, as more dust and ice particles escaped destruction by the Sun, four larger planets formed over a longer period of time in a far colder environment as material was thrown out from the center by the spinning star's centrifugal force. About a million years after the cooling of the original nebula, the Sun began to emit a stream of charged protons and electrons known as solar wind which blew the remaining gases outwards, to be sucked in by the outer planets which became gas giants. These planets attracted many objects in their vast gravity fields, some of which are big enough to be termed 'satellites', and countless smaller fragments which formed rings around the planets.

The discovery of more objects in the Solar System in recent times has led to the need for further classification. Far beyond the outer planets lies **Pluto**, which was originally considered to be the ninth planet, but which has since been found to be a binary system of two dwarf planets, the other being Charon. Pluto's origins may be in the recently discovered Kuiper Belt, the source of many of the comets which travel through the Solar System. This theory is based on Pluto's rock/ice composition which is similar to that of a comet. At one time, also thought to be a moon of Neptune, Pluto/Charon was reclassified in 2006 as one of three dwarf planets discovered so far, the others being Eris and Ceres.

Scientific knowledge is only as good as the ability of scientists to collect evidence, so as new advances are made in astronomy, the present theories may be disproved, as in the case of Pluto. The above account represents the consensus of current opinions on the matter.

21. In paragraph 1, what does the author say about the role of the Hubble Space Telescope?

A. It is too defective for our scientists to come up with definite answers to the origin of the universe.

B. Scientists discovered billions of new planets by combining measurements from the Hubble Space Telescope with Voyager measurements.

C. It solved the age of the universe and measured the age of what may be the youngest galaxy ever seen in the universe.

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D. It has helped unveil many mysteries or queries about our universe.

22. The word "composition" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. make-up B. musical

C. evolution D. revolution

23. The word "disturbed" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. broken B. attracted

C. bothered D. imported

24. Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect answer choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

A. Planets formed from gases and dust particles after comets collided with the Sun.

B. According to scientists, the manner in which planets developed was wholly dependent on their distance from Jupiter's rings.

C. The dissimilar make-up of the planets closest to the Sun and those farthest from the Sun suggests that their distance from the Sun affected their formation.

D. Scientists believe the Sun evolved from the composition of several older planets in the solar system.

25. According to paragraph 4, the inner and outer planets are separated by what?

A. An asteroid belt b. A star

C. Comets d. A moon

26. According to the passage, all of the following are true about our solar system EXCEPT_____.

A. Planets nearest the Sun were formed mostly of rock.

B. There continue to be new discoveries as technology improves.

C. Colliding asteroids eventually formed planets.

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D. Most of the comets in the solar system can be seen with the naked eye during an annular solar eclipse.

27. Why does the author mention "Pluto" in paragraph 5?

A. To discuss Pluto's rock/ice composition

B. To introduce the concept of planet formation

C. To show that new discoveries are always occurring

D. To introduce the distinction between planets and dwarf planets

28. It can be inferred from the passage that the planets_____.

A. broke off from the rapidly spinning Moon

B. collided more frequently, to spur the formation and growth of protoplanets

C. were initially asteroids

D. were formed by the collision of massive objects circling a black hole in eccentric orbits

29. According to the passage, what were the universe's origins?

A. A nebula collapsed under its gravity.

B. A black hole exploded and merged to create the universe.

C. A super being wished it into existence.

D. The Sun collapsed in on itself.

30. Look at the four squares [_] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

This cloud began to rotate rapidly as it got smaller and denser and heated up to several thousand degrees, causing some of its elements to vaporize into gas.

Where would the sentence best fit?

A. [A] B. [B]

C. [C] D. [D]

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PASSAGE 4 – Questions 31-40

Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) is a method of producing electricity developed from the temperature difference that subsists between deep and shallow waters. It converts solar radiation to electric power. The system uses the ocean's natural thermal gradient to direct a power-producing cycle. To produce a significant amount of power, the temperature between warm water on the surface and deep cold water should differ by about 20 degrees Celsius. On average, 23 million square miles of tropical seas **absorb** an amount of solar radiation equal in heat content to about 250 million barrels of oil. If less than one tenth of this could be **converted** into electric power, it would provide more than 20 times the total amount of electricity utilized in America on any given day.

Oceans are a huge renewable resource with the possibility of producing millions of watts of electric power. Some experts think the cold, deep seawater that is used in the OTEC process is rich in nutrients and, therefore, can be used to culture marine and plant life on shore or on land.

There are certain conditions which have to be met to enable OTEC to work. First, commercial OTEC facilities must be located in an environment that is stable enough for efficient system operation. This means that they must be built on land or submerged on the continental shelf. In addition, the natural ocean thermal gradient necessary for OTEC operation is generally found between latitudes 20° N and 20° S. **The temperature of the surface water** must differ from that of deep water and allowances should be made for a wide-open space. Tropical islands meet the requirements for a wide space, so they are areas for OTEC development. Land-based facilities offer advantages. For example, plants do not require extensive maintenance, and they can be installed in sheltered areas, safe from storms and general bad weather. Land-based sites allow OTEC plants to function with related industries.

Thermal energy from the ocean was first proposed as far back as 1881. However, it wasn't until 1930 that a system was built, producing 22kw of electricity. Another was constructed sometime later, but It was destroyed by waves. In 1980, the U.S department of energy built a site for OTEC heat exchangers on board a navy ship. Tests revealed that OTEC systems are able to function on slow

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moving ships and are of little consequence to the surrounding marine environment.

In 1981, Japan established a closed-cycle plant in the Pacific Ocean, producing 40,000 watts of electricity. In May 1993, another 50,000 watts of electricity was produced. However, it was an impractical energy source as the materials used were expensive. Currently, scientists are continuing to develop more cost effective and open-cycle OTEC systems. **An integrated OTEC system can help create harmonious, self-sustaining island communities, independent of imported fossil fuels and their associated costs.**

Tidal energy is another form of ocean energy caused by the gravitational pull of the moon and sun, and the rotation of the Earth. When tides come into shore, they can be trapped in reservoirs behind dams. Then when the tide lowers, the water behind the dam can be released, functioning similarly to a hydroelectric power plant. Tidal dams can change the tidal level. In the local basin, affecting the navigation. The prime disadvantage is the effect a tidal station has on plants and animals. However, tidal fences, which are also used to channel the energy of tides, have less environmental impact than traditional sources of power such as fossil fuels or nuclear power, and are cheaper to install.

Turbines are devices with blades attached to a central rod that spin when a force hits the blades. **[A]** This spinning motion is extremely **practical**. The first turbine used was the undershot waterwheel, probably the oldest type of waterwheel dating back over 2,000 years. **[B]** Waterwheels and windmills were the first turbines; their wooden blades captured the power of wind or rivers to lift water for irrigation or to rotate huge stones to grind grain. **[C]** It wasn't until the 1880s, when the generator was first invented, that people began using turbines to produce electricity. **[D]**

31. According to paragraph 1, OTEC uses what to produce power?

A. The wave energy stored in the Earth's oceans

B. The salt in the ocean

C. The seawater temperature differences

D. The tropical oceans' warm surface water

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32. The word "absorb" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. take in

C. reject

B. work together with

D. make efficient

33. The word "converted" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. consumed

B. released

C. used

D. transformed

34. In paragraph 3, the author mentions "The temperature of the surface water" as an example of_____.

A. the requirements for the perfect OTEC settlement

B. the specific requirements needed for OTEC to work

C. the careful calculations and considerations needed in OTEC

D. why water based programs are always superior to land-based ones

35. According to paragraph 5, what does the author say was the main problem with the closed cycle plant in the Pacific Ocean?

A. It was damaged by the salt water.

B. It was environmentally damaging to the area.

C. It could not generate electricity without pollution.

D. The overall cost was far too high to be economically feasible.

36. Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence? Incorrect answer choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

A. The beauty of the OTEC system is that it allows islands to be self-sufficient.

B. The OTEC system could prove to lead the world in an age of co-dependency.

C. A completely autonomous, cost effective society could be created by the system.

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D. The system could mean that societies are no longer dependent on fossil fuels.

37. According to paragraph 6, which of the following is true of tidal energy?

A. It is derived from the hydrological climate cycle.

B. It is based on the small fluctuation of tide in a given area.

C. It has no environmental and ecological effects on local inhabitants.

D. It needs a barrage to convert tidal energy into electricity.

38. The word "<u>practical</u>" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. unnecessary B. swift

C. useful D. sensitive

39. The following are all characteristics of the OTEC system EXCEPT_____.

A. It seeks to harness the temperature difference.

B. It is not technically feasible for the production of base load electricity.

C. It can be practiced on slow moving ships.

D. It can create self-sufficient systems.

40. Look at the four squares [_] that indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage.

It was turned by water flowing under the wheel and striking the boards.

Where would the sentence best fit?

A. [A] B. [B]

C. [C] D. [D]

THIS IS THE END OF THE READING PAPER.
NOW PLEASE SUBMIT
YOUR TEST PAPER AND YOUR ANSWER SHEET.

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PHẦN 3: VIẾT – VSTEP

Thời gian: 60 phút

Task 1:

Your English-speaking friend, Clare, has recently gone to live in another city. Read part of her email below:

> .....
> Well, I've now been here for two weeks and I'm beginning to get used to my new life here. I've certainly been very busy since I moved here - there have been all sorts of things happening!
> I'm quite happy in my new home although lots of my belongings are still in bags and boxes! I'm hoping to find time to unpack everything soon.
> I'm glad I decided to come and live here - it's a really good city. But there are some things and people that I miss of course!
> It would be really good if you could come and stay with me here, perhaps in a couple of months when I really settle down. What do you think?
> Keep in touch.
> Clare.

Write a reply to Clare. In your email, you have to ask her what is happening to her, tell her to describe her new home, ask her to tell you what and who she misses after she moves there and suggest the time when you can visit her.

You should write at least 120 words.

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