

Họ và tên thí sinh: Số báo danh:

Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best answer to each of the following questions.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable shift in the career choices of young people. While university education was once regarded as the primary route to success, an increasing number of school leavers are turning to skilled trades such as plumbing, electrical work, and construction. These occupations offer hands-on experience and enable individuals to enter the workforce more rapidly. In addition, they often provide stable earnings and clearer pathways for long-term career progression. In some regions, the demand for skilled workers has begun to exceed supply, leading to higher wages and improved job security for **those** entering these fields.

One factor contributing to this trend is the rapid **emergence** of advanced technologies. As automation and artificial intelligence continue to expand, certain office-based professions are becoming increasingly vulnerable to replacement. In contrast, many manual occupations require technical expertise and situational judgment, which are difficult to replicate through machines. As a result, such roles are widely perceived as more **resilient** in the face of technological disruption and economic uncertainty.

Another important reason lies in changing attitudes towards work. Rather than pursuing highly competitive corporate careers, some young people prioritise work-life balance and personal satisfaction. Jobs that involve completing tangible tasks, such as repairing systems or constructing buildings, can offer a strong sense of accomplishment. This contrasts with roles that are largely digital or administrative, where outcomes may feel less immediate or visible.

Despite this shift, higher education continues to play a significant role. Instead of replacing academic pathways, the growth of skilled trades highlights the idea that success can be achieved through multiple routes, depending on individual strengths and preferences.

Question 1: The word "**those**" in paragraph 1 refers to

- A. individuals pursuing vocational training
- B. opportunities for career advancement
- C. workers in manual occupations
- D. traditional academic pathways

Question 2: Which of the following is NOT mentioned in paragraph 1 as a factor increasing the attractiveness of skilled trades?

- A. Greater job security
- B. Lower levels of required training
- C. Faster entry into employment
- D. Higher wages in some regions

Question 3: The word "**emergence**" in paragraph 2 is CLOSEST in meaning to

- A. limitation
- B. reduction
- C. disappearance
- D. expansion

Question 4: The word "**resilient**" in paragraph 2 is OPPOSITE in meaning to

- A. resistant
- B. vulnerable
- C. adaptable
- D. stable

Question 5: Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 4?

- A. Academic pathways are no longer necessary for achieving success in modern society.
- B. Success can be achieved through different paths rather than only academic ones.
- C. Individuals should avoid academic routes and focus on practical careers instead.
- D. Skilled trades are more important than academic education for long-term success.

Question 6: Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?

- A. Skilled trades are completely immune to technological changes.
- B. Some young people prioritise personal satisfaction over competition.
- C. Office-based jobs are no longer available in modern economies.
- D. University education is no longer necessary for career success.

Question 7: Which paragraph discusses the economic advantages of skilled trades?

- A. Paragraph 4
- B. Paragraph 3
- C. Paragraph 2
- D. Paragraph 1

Question 8: Which paragraph discusses the need for employees to adapt to technological changes?

- A. Paragraph 4
- B. Paragraph 3
- C. Paragraph 2
- D. Paragraph 1

Read the following text and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that best fits each of the numbered blanks.

Scientists and engineers have long been baffled by the Leaning Tower of Pisa's remarkable ability to remain standing over several centuries despite its almost four-degree tilt and having been at the (9)_____ of numerous earthquakes since its construction was completed in 1372. To the naked eye, it appears extremely precarious and likely to collapse at any moment, and yet it has (10)_____ the test of time. New research suggests that the

tower's (11)_____ can be attributed to the soil it is built on and a pause early on in the construction works that had the unintended effect of strengthening the foundations.

Over the course of the 12th century, the city of Pisa engaged in several battles with other nearby towns and cities which caused construction to cease. Experts now suggest that in all (12)_____ this was responsible for the tower being so (13)_____ since it allowed it to gradually sink further into the soft soil. Ironically, the soft soil which caused it to lean in the first place has (14)_____ to be its saviour too. Restoration work carried out in the early 20th century to reinforce the foundations has instilled confidence amongst scientists and engineers, and they believe that the tower is unlikely to collapse any time soon. In fact, not for at least another two hundred years.

- Question 9: A. forefront B. mercy C. expense D. spot
Question 10: A. held B. stood C. remained D. lasted
Question 11: A. tenacity B. fortitude C. resilience D. resistance
Question 12: A. eventuality B. odds C. likelihood D. appearances
Question 13: A. substantial B. anchored C. concrete D. stable
Question 14: A. revealed B. happened C. materialized D. arisen

Mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct option that best fits each of the numbered blanks.

ONLINE SHOPPING: RISKS AND CONSUMER DECISIONS

Online shopping involves various potential risks, whether in the form of poor product quality, delayed delivery, payment issues, or (15)_____. Consumers often consider what problems might arise, how likely they are to occur, and whether the consequences would affect their overall satisfaction.

Some shoppers, of course, are willing to accept a certain level of risk, as it allows them to access a wider range of products or better prices, (16)_____. Others, however, prefer to avoid uncertainty and choose well-known platforms or trusted sellers. Clearly, the level of risk plays an important role. (17)_____. Those who are more cautious tend to purchase from familiar websites or rely on verified sellers rather than trying new options.

(18)_____. There is evidence that many consumers remain hesitant to depend entirely on online information when making purchases, partly because of the lack of direct inspection and partly due to (19)_____ about the reliability of product descriptions and customer reviews.

Question 15:

- A. to be uncertain about the actual quality of products until delivering
- B. being uncertain about the actual quality of products until delivery
- C. for the actual quality of products to be seen directly upon delivery
- D. what the actual quality of products is certainly like on delivery

Question 16:

- A. so the presence of risk is not in itself a barrier to their decision
- B. if risk prevents them from buying suitable products
- C. but online shopping does not involve any risks at all
- D. and consumers do not consider risk when making purchases

Question 17:

- A. Therefore, minor risks are always considered more serious than major ones
- B. Similarly, all consumers respond to online shopping risks in the same way
- C. By contrast, consumers rarely consider risk when shopping online
- D. As a result, consumers tend to behave differently depending on how serious the risk is

Question 18:

- A. Risk also influences the methods consumers use to make purchases
- B. Consumers often ignore risk when choosing shopping methods
- C. Online shopping rarely depends on the level of risk involved
- D. Purchasing decisions are not affected by external factors

Question 19:

- A. the belief that all online information is completely accurate
- B. the suspicion that such information may be unreliable
- C. the assumption that online shopping is always risk-free
- D. biased opinions about traditional stores

Read the following leaflet and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that best fits each of the numbered blanks.

Sustainable Living for Beginners

Transitioning to a greener lifestyle doesn't require drastic changes overnight. Instead, you can start by making a habit (20)_____ recycling everyday items:

Setting up a dedicated bin system is a great first step.

Check if your local council collects glass (21)_____ plastic, as some regions require you to separate them further.

Avoid using (22)_____ when shopping; instead, opt for reusable cloth bags to reduce waste.

Encourage your neighbors and (23)_____ residents in your building to join community clean-up days.

By (24)_____ the interest of your local community through social media, you can turn a solo effort into a neighborhood movement.

Small adjustments to your energy consumption, like turning off lights in empty rooms, can work (25) _____ for your monthly electricity bill.

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|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Question 20: | A. on | B. with | C. of | D. for |
| Question 21: | A. so | B. yet | C. and | D. but |
| Question 22: | A. thin plastic bags | B. thin bags plastic | C. bags plastic thin | D. bags thin plastic |
| Question 23: | A. others | B. another | C. other | D. the other |
| Question 24: | A. burning | B. sparking | C. lighting | D. glowing |
| Question 25: | A. excellence | B. treasure | C. fortunes | D. wonders |

Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best answer to each of the following questions.

THE COMPLEXITY OF TOXIC POSITIVITY IN MODERN SOCIETY

In recent years, the concept of "toxic positivity" has attracted increasing attention in discussions of mental well-being. It refers to the excessive emphasis on maintaining a positive mindset while dismissing or **invalidating** negative emotional experiences. Although optimism is widely associated with resilience and improved psychological outcomes, an uncritical insistence on positivity may prevent individuals from engaging with their authentic emotions. As a result, emotional responses that are natural and necessary may be suppressed rather than processed constructively. [I] This phenomenon is particularly evident in environments where positivity is implicitly expected, such as workplaces and social media platforms, where individuals may feel compelled to present an image of constant optimism even when experiencing stress or dissatisfaction.

These expectations can discourage open emotional expression and reinforce the belief that negative feelings should be avoided altogether. Consequently, individuals may internalise their distress instead of addressing it in meaningful ways. Over time, this pattern can contribute to emotional dissonance, a state characterised by a mismatch between internal feelings and outward behaviour. [II] Such conditions can have significant implications for long-term mental health, as individuals may struggle to regulate their emotions effectively and may experience heightened psychological strain. Research suggests that suppressing negative emotions requires sustained cognitive effort, which can gradually lead to emotional exhaustion and reduced capacity for self-regulation. [III] In contrast, acknowledging and processing these emotions enable individuals to respond more adaptively to challenges and promote greater emotional resilience.

The effects of toxic positivity are not confined to individuals but can also influence organisational and social dynamics. In professional contexts, an excessive focus on maintaining a positive atmosphere may discourage critical feedback, limit open discussion, and create an environment in which problems remain unaddressed. This can ultimately undermine trust, reduce productivity, and weaken long-term effectiveness. [IV] Ultimately, while positivity remains an important component of psychological resilience, its indiscriminate application can be counterproductive, highlighting the need for a more balanced and realistic approach to emotional well-being.

- Question 26: The word "It" in paragraph 1 refers to _____.
A. mental well-being
B. toxic positivity
C. emotional resilience
D. a positive mindset
- Question 27: The word "invalidating" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to _____.
A. dismissing
B. contradicting
C. neglecting
D. undermining
- Question 28: Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence?
A. Emotional expression is rarely influenced by social expectations.
B. Individuals are encouraged to express their emotions openly in most situations.
C. Negative emotions are generally considered beneficial in emotional development.
D. Such expectations may limit emotional expression and reinforce avoiding negativity.
- Question 29: Which of the following is NOT stated as a consequence of toxic positivity?
A. Emotional suppression
B. Greater emotional awareness
C. Heightened psychological strain
D. Emotional dissonance
- Question 30: According to paragraph 2, what explains individuals' tendency to hide negative emotions?
A. An inability to recognise emotional difficulties.
B. A preference for avoiding social interaction.
C. Limited awareness of their own emotional states.
D. Pressure to maintain a consistently positive image.
- Question 31: Which of the following best summarises paragraph 2?
A. Individuals are encouraged to express emotions freely in most environments.
B. Positive thinking improves emotional well-being in all situations.
C. Emotional pressure has little impact on long-term mental health.
D. Toxic positivity can cause emotional suppression and psychological strain.
- Question 32: According to paragraph 3, what is one benefit of acknowledging negative emotions?
A. It prevents individuals from experiencing stress.
B. It reduces the need for support from others.
C. It removes emotional pressure in most situations.
D. It helps individuals respond more effectively to challenges.
- Question 33: Where does the following sentence best fit in the passage?

“These pressures often lead individuals to adopt coping mechanisms such as suppressing or masking their true emotions.”

A. [IV]

B. [II]

C. [III]

D. [I]

Question 34: Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- A.** Emotional suppression is often considered an efficient long-term coping strategy in stressful situations.
- B.** Positive environments may eliminate the need for emotional regulation in most cases.
- C.** Individuals who acknowledge negative emotions may regulate them more effectively
- D.** Emotional resilience is generally unrelated to cognitive effort in managing psychological stress.

Question 35: Which of the following best summarises the passage?

- A.** Negative emotions should be minimised to ensure psychological stability in everyday life.
- B.** Excessive emphasis on positivity may obscure the importance of emotional processing
- C.** Emotional well-being depends primarily on maintaining a consistently positive mindset in most situations.
- D.** Workplace environments are often considered the main cause of emotional imbalance in individuals.

Mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best arrangement of utterances or sentences to make a cohesive and coherent exchange or text in each of the following questions.

Question 36:

- a. Technology has fundamentally reshaped the landscape of modern existence, acting as both a bridge to global connectivity and a catalyst for unprecedented efficiency.
- b. Our progress depends on balancing rapid advancement with ethical stewardship.
- c. While it has democratized information, allowing knowledge to transcend geographical boundaries, it also necessitates a critical evaluation of our digital footprints and cognitive habits.
- d. As we integrate artificial intelligence and automation into the fabric of our daily routines, the challenge lies in leveraging these tools to enhance human potential without eroding the essential qualities of face-to-face interaction and focused reflection.
- e. From the palm-sized supercomputers we carry in our pockets to the sophisticated algorithms streamlining industrial production, digital innovation is no longer a luxury but a cornerstone of societal infrastructure.

A. b – c – e – d – a

B. a – e – c – d – b

C. a – d – e – c – b

D. b – e – c – d – a

Question 37:

- a. When individuals embrace their ancestral roots while remaining open to outside influences, they often develop a more robust and nuanced perspective on their place within a multicultural society.
- b. Cultural identity acts as a profound anchor for the individual, woven from the intricate threads of shared history, language, and the enduring traditions passed down through generations.
- c. The true strength of a community lies in its ability to honor these distinct identities, recognizing that our collective future is enriched by the depth and variety of our separate pasts.
- d. This sense of belonging provides a vital framework through which we interpret our experiences, offering a unique lens that shapes our core values and informs our interactions with the broader world.
- e. While the forces of globalization increasingly encourage a blending of customs, the preservation of specific cultural markers remains essential for maintaining the diverse tapestry of human heritage.

A. c – b – d – e – a

B. b – d – e – a – c

C. a – b – d – e – c

D. b – e – d – a – c

Question 38:

- a. Tom: I'd love to, but I have to finish my history assignment tonight.
- b. Anna: That's a pity! Maybe we can go some other time then.
- c. Anna: Hi Tom, are you free to go to the cinema with us this evening?

A. a – c – b

B. c – b – a

C. b – a – c

D. c – a – b

Question 39:

- a. Mark: I've started using AI tools to help organize my study schedule.
- b. Mark: I find it much more efficient than doing it manually, which used to take hours.
- c. Elena: You seem much more relaxed lately. Have you changed your routine?
- d. Elena: That's clever! Do you find it actually saves you time, or is it just a distraction?
- e. Elena: Interesting. It's amazing how technology can simplify our academic lives if used correctly.

A. a – d – b – e – c

B. c – a – d – b – e

C. c – d – a – b – e

D. a – b – c – d – e

Question 40:

Dear Customer,

- a. This safety measure is necessary because a small number of units have shown signs of overheating.
- b. We are writing to inform you of a voluntary recall regarding the "PowerMax 3000" portable charger purchased after January.
- c. If you no longer possess the original receipt, you can still claim a voucher by providing the serial number on the back of the device.
- d. Please stop using the device immediately and return it to your nearest retail store for a full refund.
- e. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your cooperation in ensuring safety.

Best regards,

TechGear Support

A. b – a – c – d – e

B. d – b – a – c – e

C. b – a – d – c – e

D. b – d – a – c – e

----- THE END -----