TOPIC 2: LIFE STORIES

A. PHONETICS

I. Find the word which has a different sound in the part underlined.

1. A. accomplished	B. talented	C. dedicated	D. respected
2. A. remarked	B. devoted	C.distinguished	D. reached
3. A regcognizes	B. inspires	C. figures	D. representatives
4. A. expense	B. dedicate	C. devote	D. respect
5. A. pioneer	B. distinctive	C. distinguish	D. figure

II. Choose the word which has a different stress pattern from the others.

1. A. reputation	B. influential	C. expression	D. representative
2. A. pioneer	B. celebrate	C. strategist	D. recognize
3. A. recognition	B. distinguish	C. profound	D. remarkable
4. A. exceptional	B. distinctive	C. respectable	D. controversial
5. A. generous	B. expense	C. glorious	D. talent

B. VOCABULARY AND GRAMMAR

I. Choose the correct words in the box to complete the sentences.

widely	*related*	*master*	*inequality*
movement	*accomplished*	*pioneer*	*increasingly*

1. Hughes is one of the most _____ writers in American 20 literary history?
2. Albert Einstein was essentially all _____ to science meanwhile Leonardo Da Vinci was a _____ at art, architecture, invention, and several other areas.
3. Han Mac Tu was part of the new poetic _____ in Vietnam at the beginning of the 20th century.
4. Han Mac Tu is considered a _____ of romantic poetry in Vietnam.
5. During his time at University, Nelson Mandela became _____ aware of the racial _____ and injustice faced by non-white people.
6. Steve Jobs is _____ recognized as a pioneer in the field of microcomputer revolution.

II. Give the correct form of the words in the following sentences.

1. He was the most _____ football player that our school had produced in years His talent for football was great. TALENT
2. Do you know Professor Phan Huy Le whose great _____ was his books on the history of Vietnam in the 19th century? ACHIEVE
3. He wishes to straighten up and lead a _____ life. RESPECT
4. His career as a journalist was full of _____ achievements. He was a respected and admired journalist. DISTINGUISH
5. To be successful takes hard work and _____. DEDICATE
6. Doing things with _____ will give us true happiness. The more we give away, the happier we are. GENEROUS
7. Tran Hung Dao was a great _____ to lure the enemy to enter deeply into his land, then attacked to destroy them. STRATEGY
8. Mother Teresa was a living saint who offered a great example and _____ to the world. INSPIRE
9. Zuckerberg was forced to shut his website down, but its immense _____ and controversy had made him consider its future potential. POPULAR

Me corner

10. As the principal founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates is one of the most _____ and richest people on the planet. INFLUENCE

11. If Presley was considered a _____ and a rebellious figure, it just made him more popular with young listeners. CONTROVERSY

12. Stephen William Hawking got more _____ for his research and discoveries through his print and TV interviews. RECOGNINZE

III. Indicate the correct answer to complete each of the following questions.

1. At his first school, Mark Zuckerberg ____ in all subjects and worked hard throughout his classes.
A. interested B. excelled C. engrossed D. involved

2. His incredible performance during high school ____ him admission to Harvard University.
A. earned B. attained C. resorted D. applied

3. Mother Teresa suffered various health problems, but nothing could ____ her from fulfilling her mission of serving the poor and needy.
A. persuade B. warn C. appoint D. dissuade

4. In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for work undertaken in the ____ to overcome poverty and distress.
A. battle B. struggle C. movement D. proposal

5. At the age of 18, Mother Teresa was ____ permission to join a group of nuns in Ireland.
A. required B. sought C. obtained D. given

6. Nelson Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for his work in helping to end racial ____ in South Africa
A. integration B. segregation C. achievement D. exploitation

7. Princess Diana fought for her children on any level so they could reach their full ____ as human beings and in their public duties.
A. requirement B. condition C. capacity D. potential

8. Meeting my favorite celebrity at the airport was certainly a ____ of luck that wouldn't have happened if I'd arrived five minutes later.
A. number B. piece C. stroke D. name

9. Steve Jobs might hardly imagine that only a year later the company ____ impressive victory with Apple II, one of the first highly successful ____ personal computer.
A. attain / massly-produced B. see / mass-produced
C. taste / massive produced D. achieve / mass-producing

10. Ms. May, 59 years old, is the country's longest-serving home secretary in half a century, with a ____ for seriousness, hard work and above all, determination.
A. fame B. reputation C. achievement D. maintenance

11. Theresa May is one of a growing number of women in traditionally ____ British politics rising to the upper position of leadership.
A. male-dominated B. man-domination C. male-dominating D. man-dominatedly

12. Marilyn Monroe is widely ____ as one of most influential figures in American culture.
A. classified B. depicted C. admired D. regarded

13. May's sports hero was Geoffrey Boycott, a solid, stubborn cricketer who ____ in playing the long game.
A. qualified B. specialized C. engrossed D. indulged

14. Like many other Britain's prime ministers, May ____ a place at Oxford.
A. admitted B. permitted C. won D. constituted

15. She has been quite critical ____ the media focusing on her fashion instead of her achievement as a politician.

A. with B. for C. of D. in

16. Marilyn Monroe was ____ for Golden Globe Best Actress Award for Bus Stop (1956).

A. offered B. nominated C. awarded D. rewarded

17. Marilyn Monroe ____ to a heavy drug use, which had a damaging impact ____ both her mental and physical health.

A. resorted - on B. abused - in C. overexploited - to D. related - for

18. Their family were wealthy but they encouraged their children to work hard and take nothing ____.

A. for sure B. for good C. for granted D. for charge

19. When Bill Gates saw an opportunity to found his own company, he dropped ____ Harvard without finishing his course.

A. into B. by C. around D. out of

20. Despite the pervasive press intrusions into her private life, Princess Diana remained very popular because people could identify ____ her.

A. in B. for C. with D. as

21. Elvis was ____ shy and as a youngster was not keen on performing in public.

A. relatively B. respectively C. virtually D. almost

22. As a teenager, he was uninterested in school - but became ____ in music, listening to a huge ____ of contemporary American music.

A. bored - amount B. reluctant - diversity C. reckless - type D. absorbed - range

23. Elvis Presley was ____ for the idea that rock 'n' roll music was having a negative effect on American teenagers.

A. accused B. convicted C. criticized D. charged

24. If Presley was considered a controversial and a rebellious ____, it just made him more popular with young listeners.

A. creator B. figure C. character D. celebration

25. Darwin was ____ a place on the HMS Beagle to act as a natural scientist on a voyage to the coast of South America.

A. won B. gained C. offered D. admitted

26. Influenced by the work of Malthus, Darwin came ____ a theory of natural selection and gradual evolution over time.

A. off B. into C. out D. up with

27. In the struggle for survival, the fittest win out at the ____ of their rivals because they succeed in adapting themselves best ____ their environment

A. expense - to B. cost - for C. expenditure - of D. stake - to

28. Van Gogh played a ____ role in the development of modern art.

A. worthless B. valueless C. key D. minor

29. Van Gogh was ____ to a lunatic asylum where he would spend time on and off until his death in 1890.

A. related B. referred C. adapted D. committed

30. Oprah Winfrey has played a key role in modern American life, shaping cultural ____ and promoting various liberal causes.

A. values B. trends C. potentials D. prosperity

IV. Indicate the word(s) CLOSEST in meaning to the underlined word(s) in each of the following questions.

1. His early death only cemented his legendary status, and Elvis Presley has become deeply **<u>ingrained</u>** in popular culture.

A. engrossed B. indulged C. deep-rooted D. supreme

ME corner

2. A **distinctive** feature of Trump's business and real estate ventures has been the prominent use of his own name.

A. characteristic B. general C. common D. superficial

3. Mother Teresa was a Roman Catholic nun who **devoted** her life to serving the poor and destitute around the world.

A. committed B. dedicated C. committed D. attended

4. Marilyn Monroe has become an iconic **representative** of fame and female beauty.

A. figure B. image C. typical D. idol

5. Marilyn Monroe was an **epitome** of sensuality, beauty and effervescence and was naturally photogenic.

A. frame B. indicator C. instructor D. figure

6. Despite the media often being dismissive of Monroe's potential, her efforts to improve acting **paid off**.

A. failed B. broke down C. managed D. met with success

7. Margaret Thatcher was known for her tough **uncompromising** conservative political views, and became dubbed as 'The Iron Lady'.

A. reserved B. inflexible C. narrow-minded D. compatible

8. He is commonly referred to as the "The King of Rock 'n' Roll" and **epitomizes** the post-war pop generation

A. be representative of B. leads C. elaborates D. expands on

9. Leonardo da Vinci created rare **masterpieces** of art such as The Mona Lisa' and 'The Last Supper'.

A. worthless works of art B. invaluable property

C. excellent qualifications D. excellent works of art

10. Da Vinci studied all aspects of life and his **far-reaching** investigations and discoveries sought to show an underlying unity of the universe.

A. insignificant B. finite C. extensive D. excessive

V. Indicate the word(s) OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word(s) in each of the following questions.

1. Da Vinci from an early age began to display his **remarkable** academic and artistic talents.

A. striking B. extraordinary C. run-of-the-mill D. exceptional

2. Joachim Lafosse confirms his **exceptional** talent with "Free Student", a film that is more conventional in its form.

A. out of the ordinary B. abnormal C. usual D. odd

3. Van Gogh became one of the most **celebrated** artists of the twentieth century.

A. admired B. honored C. acclaimed D. obscure

4. Michael **stood out** for his exceptional enthusiasm and soft, infectious musical voice.

A. attract attention B. be inconspicuous C. be conspicuous D. stick out a mile

5. In recent years, Madonna has continued to tour, release albums and **engage in** humanitarian work.

A. throw oneself into B. become uninvolved in C. have a hand in D. take part in

6. Henry VIII was equally **notorious** for his six marriages and several scandalous love affairs.

A. anonymous B. infamous C. celebrated D. ill-famed

7. The works Da Vinci did finish were often **spectacular** masterpieces, such as his paintings The Last Supper and The Mona Lisa.

A. magnificent B. out of this world C. unimpressive D. remarkable

8. The death of Diana princess had a **profound** impact on the British public and those in other countries.

A. far-reaching B. superficial C. deep-seated D. heartfelt

C. READING

I. Choose the word or phrase from the box that best fits the blank space in the following passage.

milestones *prolific* *like* *won* *funded*
breakthroughs *making* *revolutionary*

Elon Musk is one of the greatest and most (1) _____ modern inventors and is responsible for monumental advancements in futuristic technology (2) _____ renewable energy and space travel. Many of his innovations seem to be right out of a science-fiction movie, but throughout his career he has brought about huge scientific (3) _____. After (4) _____ his first fortune from the internet payment service 'PayPal', he invested $100 million in his space travel company, 'SpaceX' and began building satellites, launch vehicles and other spacecraft both for NASA and for his own company, creating new (5) _____ with his privately (6) _____ spacecraft. Many of his (7) _____ ideas and inventions focus on space travel, renewable energy, commercial electric cars and other technologies, that look to a future where fossil fuels and other resources may be in shorter supply. His futuristic and visionary ideas have (8) _____ him both scientific and philanthropic recognition and awards.

II. Choose the word or phrase among A, B, C or D that best fits the blank space in the following passage.

Gia Long was the first emperor of the Nguyen dynasty as well as the (1) ____ father of the modern nation of Vietnam. Born as Nguyen Phuc Anh, he was the nephew of the last Nguyen lord who ruled over southern Vietnam. (2) ____ being born into a royal family, he had to (3) ____ many difficulties in his early life as he became the (4) ____ of rival groups who attempted to (5) ____ the Nguyen clan completely. After the deaths of his father and uncle at the hands of the rival leaders, Nguyen Phuc Anh fled to the southern coastal tip of Vietnam where (6) ____ he met a French priest, Pigneau de Behaine, who would (7) ____ become his trusted adviser and play a major role in his (8) ____ to power. He escaped with the help of the priest and later on sought aid from the French in his struggle (9) ____ his rivals. (10) ____ the help of the French, and equipped with (11) ____ European armaments, he was (12) ____ in securing victories over his rivals.

1. A. found	B. founded	C. founding	D. founder
2. A. Because of	B. In view of	C. Despite of	D. In spite of
3. A. encounter	B. face up	C. manage	D. get by
4. A. shield	B. target	C. purpose	D. destination
5. A. wipe off	B. wipe out	C. kill up	D. destroy
6. A. by chance	B. on occasion	C. on purpose	D. at stake
7. A. at last	B. especially	C. specially	D. eventually
8. A. raise	B. arise	C. rise	D. rising
9. A. for	B. against	C. off	D. at
10. A. With	B. Without	C. But for	D. Thanks
11. A. advance	B. advances	C. advanced	D. advancing
12. A. engaged	B. involved	C. successful	D. attended

III. Read the passage, and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D for each question.

William Sydney Porter (1862-1910), who wrote under the **pseudonym** of O. Henry, was born in North Carolina. His only formal education was to attend his Aunt Lina's school until the age of fifteen, where he developed his lifelong love of books. By 1881 he was a licensed pharmacist. However, within a year, on the recommendation of a medical colleague of his Father's, Porter moved to La Salle County in Texas for two years herding sheep. During this time, Webster's Unabridged Dictionary was his constant companion, and Porter gained a knowledge of ranch life that he later incorporated into many of his short stories. He then moved to Austin for three years, and during this time the first recorded use of his pseudonym appeared, allegedly derived from his habit of calling "Oh, Henry' to a family cat. In 1887, Porter man Athol Estes. He worked as a draftsman, then as a bank teller for the First National Bank.

In 1894 Porter founded his own humor weekly, the "Rolling Stone", a venture that failed within a year, and later wrote a column for the Houston Daily Post. In the meantime, the First National Bank was examined, and the subsequent indictment of 1886 stated that Porter had embezzled funds. Porter then fled to New Orleans, and later to Honduras, leaving his wife and child in Austin. He returned in 1897 because of his wife's continued ill-health, however she died six months later. Then, in 1898 Porter was found guilty and sentenced to five years **imprisonment** in Ohio. At the age of thirty five, he entered prison as a defeated man; he had lost his job, his home, his wife, and finally his freedom. He emerged from prison three years later, reborn as O. Henry, the pseudonym he now used to hide his true identity. He wrote at least twelve stories in jail, and after re-gaining his freedom, went to New York City, where he published more than 300 stories and gained fame as America's favorite short Story writer. Porter married again in 1907, but after months of poor health, he died in New York City at the age of forty-eight in 1910. O. Henry's stories have been translated all over the world.

1. According to the passage, Porter's Father was ____.
   A. the person who gave him a life-long love of books
   B. a medical doctor
   C. a licensed pharmacist
   D. responsible for his move to La Salle County in Texas
2. Why did the author write the passage?
   A. to outline the career of a famous American
   B. because of his fame as America's favorite short story writer
   C. because it is a tragic story of a gifted writer
   D. to outline the influences on O. Henry's writing
3. The word "**imprisonment**" in paragraph 2 is closet in meaning to ____.
   A. captivity B. escape C. insult D. punishment
4. What is the passage primarily about?
   A. The life and career of William Sydney Porter
   B. The way to adopt a nickname.
   C. O. Henry's influence on American literature.
   D. The adventures of O. Henry.
5. The author implies which of the following is true?
   A. Porter's wife might have lived longer if he had not left her in Austin when he fled.
   B. Porter was in poor health throughout his life.
   C. O. Henry is as popular in many other countries as he is in America
   D. Porter would probably have written less stories if he had not been in prison for three years.
6. Which of the following is true, according to the passage?
   A. Porter left school at 15 to become a pharmacist
   B. Porter wrote a column for the Houston Daily Post called "Rolling Stone".
   C. The first recorded use of his pseudonym was in Austin
   D. Both of Porter's wives died before he died
7. The word "**pseudonym**" in the passage refers to ____.
   A. William Sydney Porter B. O. Henry C. Athol Estes D. the Aunt Lina

IV. Read the passage, and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D for each question.

A large number of inventions require years of **arduous** research and development before they are perfected. For instance, Thomas Edison had to make more than 1,000 attempts to invent the incandescent light bulb before he finally succeeded. History is replete with numerous other examples of people trying, yet failing to make inventions before they eventually succeeded. Yet some inventions have come about not through hard work but simply by accident in most cases, when someone unintentionally invented something, the inventor was attempting to create something else. For example, in the 1930s, chemist Roy Plunkett was attempting to make a new substance that could be used to refrigerate items. He mixed some

chemicals together. Then, he put them into a pressurized container and cooled the mixture. By the time his experiment was complete, he had a new invention. It was not a new substance that could be used for refrigeration though. Instead, he had invented Teflon, which is today most commonly used to make nonstick pots and pans. Similarly, decades earlier, John Pemberton was a pharmacist in Atlanta, Georgia. He was attempting to create a tonic that people could use whenever they had headaches. While he was not successful in that **endeavor**, he managed to invent Coca-Cola, the world - famous carbonated soft drink.

Scientists have also made crucial discoveries by accident when they were conducting experiments. In 1928, Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, an antibiotic in this manner. He discovered some mold growing in a dish with some bacteria. He noticed that the bacteria seemed to be avoiding the mold. When he investigated further, he determined some of the many useful properties of penicillin, which has saved millions of lives over the past few decades. Likewise, in 1946, scientist Percy Spencer was conducting an experiment with microwaves. He had a candy bar in his pocket, and he noticed that it suddenly melted. He investigated and learned the reason why that had happened. Soon afterward, he built a device that could utilize microwaves to heat food, the microwave oven.

1: Which title best summarizes the main idea of the passage ____.

A. History's Most Important Inventions
B. Accidental Inventions and Discoveries
C. How to Become a Great Inventor
D. You Don't Always Get What You Want

2: In paragraph 1, the word "**arduous**" is closest in meaning to ____.

A. detailed B. tough C. specific D. constant

3: In paragraph 2, the word "**endeavor**" is closest in meaning to ____.

A. research B. dream C. request D. attempt

4: What does the author say about Teflon?

A. People first used it as a refrigeration device.
B. It was created many years before Coca-Cola.
C. The man who made it was a pharmacist.
D. It is used for kitchenware nowadays.

5: Who was John Pemberton?

A. The person who made Teflon
B. The creator of Coca-Cola
C. The man who discovered penicillin
D. The inventor of the microwave

6: The author uses Alexander Fleming as an example of ____.

A. one of the most famous inventors in history
B. a person who made an accidental scientific discovery
C. someone who became a millionaire from his invention
D. a man who dedicated his life to medical science

7: What does the author imply about penicillin?

A. Doctors seldom use it nowadays.
B. Some people are not affected by it.
C. It is an invaluable medical supply.
D. Mold combines with bacteria to make it.

ME corner