Section A: Comprehension (20%)

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions which follow. For each question, select the best answer from the options.

Passage 1

Televisions show sounds and pictures. They get data from cables, discs, or over-the-air signals. They turn this data into sounds and images. People watch news and shows on them. You probably call them TVs.

John Baird made the first TV in 1925. It had one colour. It could only show 30 lines. This was just enough room for a face. It didn't work well, but it was a start.

The first TV station was set up in 1928. It was in New York. Few people had TVs. The broadcasts were not meant to be watched. They showed a Felix the Cat doll for two hours a day. The doll spun around on a record player. They were experimenting. It took many years to get it right.

By the end of the 1930s, TVs were working well. America got its first taste at the 1939 World's Fair. This was one of the biggest events ever. There were 200 small, black and white TVs set up around the fair. The U.S. President gave a speech over the TVs. The TVs were only five inches big but the people loved it.

They wanted TVs. But World War II was going on during this time. Factories were busy making guns and bombs. When the war was over, TV spread across the country.

By 1948 there were 4 big TV networks in America. They aired their shows from 8 to 11 each night. Local shows were aired at other times. Most of the time, nothing was shown at all. TV was not "always on" like it is now.

Colour TVs came out in 1953. They cost too much money for most. Also, shows were aired in black and white. By 1965, colour TVs were cheaper. TV stations started airing shows in colour. People had to switch if they wanted to see the shows.

Now most TVs are high-def. This means that they have many lines on them. This makes the image clear. TVs have come a long way since Baird's 30 line set. High-def TVs have 1080 lines. There are state of the art sets called 4K TVs. These TVs have 3,840 lines. Some people watch TV in 3D. I wonder what they will come up with next. Smell-o-vision anyone?

1. When did colour TVs come out?

a. 1925
b. 1953
c. 1939
d. 1965

2. Which was **not** true about the first TV?

a. It could only show one colour.
b. It only had 30 lines.
c. It did not have sound.
d. It did not work well.

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3. When did networks start showing programs in colour?

a. 1948
b. 1953
c. 1965
d. 1939

4. Why did the first TV station only show Felix the Cat for two hours a day?

a. They were running tests.
b. Felix the Cat was really popular.
c. Felix the Cat had been a big radio star.
d. Felix the Cat was the only show that they had.

5. Which of these events slowed the spread of TVs?

a. The World's Fair of 1939
b. The Civil War
c. The election of the U.S. President.
d. World War II

6. What is the author's main purpose in writing this?

a. He is trying to explain how a TV works.
b. He is telling readers how TVs became popular.
c. He is describing the history of the TV.
d. He is trying to get people to watch more TV.

7. Why did many families switch to colour TVs in 1965?

a. Colour TVs cost a lot of money.
b. Many shows were only shown in colour.
c. Colour TVs came out in 1965.
d. World War II ended and troops returned home.

8. Why was 1939 an important year for TV?

a. Many Americans were introduced to TV.
b. The first colour TV was released.
c. The first TV station began broadcasting.
d. John Baird created the first TV.

9. How many lines does a 4K TV have?

a. 30
b. 1,080
c. 4,000
d. 3,840

10. Which happened first?

a. The 1939 World's Fair
b. The release of high-def TVs
c. The end of World War II
d. The release of colour TVs

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Passage 2

Have you ever been to the beach? Did you see a man with a headset pointing a long pole at the ground? If so you might have seen a person using a metal detector. People use these devices to find metal.

Metal detectors make magnetic waves. These waves go through the ground. The waves change when they hit metal. Then the device beeps. This lets the person with the device know that metal is close.

The first metal detectors were meant to help miners. They were big. They cost a lot of money. They used a lot of power. And worst of all, they didn't work well. People kept trying to make them better.

Metal detectors got smaller. Now they are light and cheap. They also work better. That is why people bring them to the beach. They can look for rings in the water. They can look for phones in the sand. Metal detectors help them find these things. They usually just find junk though.

Metal detectors also protect people. They help to keep guns out of some places. They are in airports. They are in courthouses. Some schools use them. They help guards look for weapons. Guards use special wands to find metal on a person.

These devices save lives in other ways too. During wars, people plant bombs in the ground. When the war ends, they don't clean up their messes. This is unsafe for the people who live in those places. Others use metal detectors to find bombs. They remove them and help the people.

These devices also make clothes safer. It sounds funny, but it's true. Most clothes are made in big factories. There are lots of needles in these places. Needles break from time to time. They get stuck in the clothes. They would poke people trying them on. They don't though. That's because our clothes are scanned for metal. Isn't that nice? Let's hear it for metal detectors. They make the world a safer place.

11. Which was **not** one of the problems with the first metal detectors?

a. They were too big.
b. They were too expensive.
c. They didn't work well.
d. They were unsafe.

12. Which best describes the main idea of the second paragraph?

a. It describes the sounds of a metal detector.
b. It explains how metal detectors work.
c. It warns about the effects of metal detectors.
d. It explains how magnetic waves move.

13. How do metal detectors make clothing safer?

a. Metal detectors make sure factory machines are working the right way.
b. Metal detectors make sure workers don't bring weapons into factories.
c. Metal detectors make sure that broken needles don't get into clothing.
d. Metal detectors help people recover lost clothing at the beach.

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14. Why were metal detectors first used?

a. To help miners
b. To help security guards
c. To help doctors
d. To help soldiers

15. According to the text, metal detectors have been used in all of the following **except** which?

a. schools
b. churches
c. courthouses
d. airports

16. How do metal detectors help soldiers?

a. They warn soldiers when bullets are coming.
b. They help soldiers find hidden bombs.
c. They find weaknesses in their armour.
d. They create a relaxing beeping noise.

17. Why do people bring metal detectors to the beach?

a. Metal detectors help people keep the sand clean and safe.
b. Metal detectors look cool.
c. Metal detectors help people find valuable items.
d. Metal detectors help guards keep weapons away from the beach.

18. Which happens first?

a. The metal detector beeps alarmingly.
b. The magnetic waves hit metal and change.
c. The magnetic waves go through the ground.
d. The metal detector creates magnetic waves.

19. How did metal detectors get better over time?

a. They became cheaper.
b. They became lighter.
c. They began working better
d. All of these

20. Which title would best describe the purpose of this text?

a. *A Day at the Beach: Using Your Metal Detector to Find Things*
b. *Metal Detectors: a Complete the Story of Their Invention*
c. *Magnetism and More: How a Metal Detector Works*
d. *Metal Detectors: What They Do and How We Use Them*

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SECTION B: FORMS AND FUNCTIONS (5%)

Complete each of the dialogues below by selecting the best answer from the options according to the underlined function.

21. Jeff : Hello, Tony. Come in.

    Tony : Thanks.

    Jeff : _____ (To introduce)

    (A) Sis, my friend has come.
    (B) Sis, this is my friend Tony.
    (C) Sis, Tony is here.
    (D) Sis, please prepare coffee.

22. Maggie : I feel examinations should be abolished.

    Joey : _____ (To disagree)

    (A) You are right.
    (B) That's not a bad idea.
    (C) I don't like examinations too.
    (D) Certainly not.

23. Helen : The exam is round the corner.

    Father : _____ (To advise)

    (A) You should have told me earlier.
    (B) Aren't you going to start your revision ?
    (C) You'd better start revising now.
    (D) You must do better this time.

24. Mary : I'm getting married soon.

    Sarah : _____ (To congratulate)

    (A) When ?
    (B) I am so glad for you.
    (C) Congratulations.
    (D) Oh dear !

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25. Jane : Did you bring my book ?

Reyes : I'm sorry. I forgot all about it.

Jane : _____ (To express regret)

(A) You are always forgetful.
(B) I shouldn't have lent it to you.
(C) I won't lend it to you anymore.
(D) You are very irresponsible.

SECTION C: CLOSEST IN MEANING (10%)
Read the three situations below. For each question, select the best answer which is closest in meaning to the statements underlined.

Situation A

Selvam woke up bright and early last Saturday. He was **in seventh heaven** ! First of all, he had just got his O level results. As everyone had expected, he **had passed with flying colours**. Then came the surprise ! In the garden was a brand new car ! It was a gift from his father. Bursting with pride, Mr Krishnan gazed at **the apple of his eye** and said, 'Happy birthday, son, and congratulations on your excellent results ! Your mother and I are so proud of you !'

26. **in seventh heaven**

A utterly discontented
B extremely happy
C amazingly dreamy
D very imaginative

27. **had passed with flying colours**

A had excelled in Art
B had mediocre grades
C had just scraped through
D had done very well

28. **the apple of his eye**

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A his beloved wife

B his family members

C his favourite child

D his many possessions

Situation B

It was rather a dark night. While the Lee family was fast asleep, two intruders **broke into their home**.

They moved, stealthily from one room to another, gathering all the valuables they could find. At that time, Mrs Lee woke up to go to the bathroom. Upon hearing her, one of the intruders panicked and dropped his torchlight. When she heard the sound, Mrs Lee **suspected that something was amiss** and woke her husband up.

Mr Lee phoned for the police immediately and waited quietly upstairs for them to come and arrest the unwelcome guests downstairs !

29. **broke into their home**

A broke the things in their home

B destroyed valuables in their home

C invited the Lee family into their home

D forced their way into the Lee family's home

30. **They moved, stealthily**

A They strutted boldly and pompously

B They walked quietly and carefully

C They slithered quietly and carefully

D They trooped purposefully and boastfully

31. **suspected that something amiss**

A guessed that everything was fine

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B wondered where her torchlight was

C felt that something was wrong

D was certain the robbers had fled

Situation C

Roslan had a special treat last week when his father took him to the circus. He was so thrilled by what he saw that the following day he tried to **mimic the acrobats**.

He stood on his head, slid down banisters and hung upside down from tree branches. His mother cautioned him to be careful but her words **fell on deaf ears**.

A few days later, while Roslan was swinging from one tree branch to another, the branch snapped and he fell to the ground. As a result of the mishap, he had **a fractured leg** and several bruises. As he groaned in pain, his mother's word **kept ringing in his ears.**

32. **mimic the acrobats**

A teach the acrobats

B insult the performers

C show off to the other acrobats

D imitate the trapeze artistes

33. **fell on deaf ears**

A caused great sorrow

B could not be understood

C went unheeded

D could not be heard

34. **a fractured leg**

A a swollen limb

B a broken leg

C a badly sprained ankle

D a twisted leg

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35. **kept ringing in his ears**

A was ignored

B was remembered

C was advised

D was forgotten

SECTION D: STRUCTURE AND USAGE (25%)

For each question, select the best answer from the options to fit each numbered blank.

Text 1

Once upon a time, there was a man called Rip Van Winkle. He was a likeable ___**36**___ lazy man who never did an ounce of work in his life. His wife was always nagging ___**37**___ him for being so lazy.

One day, to ___**38**___ his wife's nagging, Rip Van Winkle took a stroll in the woods. In these mysterious woods, he encountered a group of old men with long beards. When they saw Rip Van Winkle, they offered him a drink from a flask. Rip Van Winkle took a ___**39**___ and found the drink delicious. As he was very thirsty, he drank to his heart's ___**40**___ . Immediately after the drink, he felt his eyelids becoming heavy. Before he knew it, he had fallen into a deep sleep.

When he woke up, the sun was shining brightly.

"I must have slept the whole night," he thought to ___**41**___.

As Rip Van Winkle ___**42**___ his way home, he discovered, to his astonishment, that the landscape around him had changed. As he approached his village, he was even more dumbfounded. He found that he could not recognise ___**43**___ in the village ! Not only did the people look different, they were also dressed in a different fashion. Everyone was staring at his chin. As Rip Van Winkle looked down at his own chin, he realised, to his surprise, that he had ___**44**___ a very long beard.

After making some enquiries, Rip Van Winkle realised that one hundred years had passed from the time he drank the liquid ___**45**___ the time he woke up. This meant that he had been asleep for one hundred years !

36. A or
B and
C but

37. A to
B from
C before

38. A run away
B avoid
C prevent

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