

**PART 1: READING****READING 1: BEETHOVEN**

Read the passage, write T (true) / F (false) or NG (not given)

from question 1 to 6:



Composer Ludwig van Beethoven was born on or near December 16, 1770, in Bonn, Germany. He is widely considered the greatest composer of all time. Sometime between the births of his two younger brothers, Beethoven's father began teaching him music with an extraordinary rigour and brutality that affected him for the rest of his life. On a near daily basis, Beethoven was flogged, locked in the cellar and deprived of sleep for extra hours of practice. He studied the violin and clavier with his father as well as taking additional lessons from organists around town. Beethoven was a prodigiously talented musician from his earliest days and displayed flashes of the creative imagination that would eventually reach farther than any composer's before or since.

In 1804, only weeks after Napoleon proclaimed himself Emperor, Beethoven debuted his Symphony No. 3 in Napoleon's honor. It was his grandest and most original work to date — so unlike anything heard before that through weeks of rehearsal, the musicians could not figure out how to play it. At the same time as he was composing these great and immortal works, Beethoven was struggling to come to terms with a shocking and terrible fact, one that he tried desperately to conceal. He was going deaf. At the turn of the century, Beethoven struggled to make out the words spoken to him in conversation.

Despite his extraordinary output of beautiful music, Beethoven was frequently miserable throughout his adult life. Beethoven died on March 26, 1827, at the age of 56.

Are the following statements True, False or Not Given according to the information in the passage.

1. It is not known exactly when Beethoven was born.
2. Beethoven suffered cruelty at the hands of his father.
3. Beethoven was denied hours of sleep as a punishment for poor performance.
4. Beethoven's father was also a talented musician.
5. Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 was inspired by a famous man.
6. In the early 1800's Beethoven struggled to follow a conversation

## READING 2:

**Read the blog post. Then answer the questions. Circle the correct answers.**

Did you make a New Year's resolution last year? Perhaps you would like to be more outgoing, more considerate, or more of a team player. If you're like most people, you probably made your resolution about one of just a few topics. People everywhere seem to share the same goals. Everyone wants to lose weight, stay healthy or even get healthier, organize their lives, and save more money. Sound familiar? If so, are you still hopeful?

Most people start the year as optimists, hoping to keep their resolutions. Unfortunately, only about half of those people are successful in keeping their resolutions for more than six months. So, is making resolutions useless? Absolutely not! If you don't make them, you can't keep them! One study showed that people who make clear resolutions are ten times more likely to change their behavior than people who don't.

So, how can you improve your chances of keeping your resolutions? There are creative and effective strategies that can help you stay on track.

- ✓ Set clear and specific goals. Instead of saying, "I will lose weight," say how much weight you will lose and by what date.
- ✓ Start with small steps and be practical. Instead of planning to save \$100 a week, plan to save just \$20. It is more likely you will continue a program if you start with less ambitious goals.
- ✓ Roll with the punches. Sometimes things happen to prevent you from reaching your goal. Even the best plans don't work out all the time. Allow yourself to be disappointed, but don't give up!
- ✓ Ask a friend to join you. If you are an easygoing people person, you are more likely to continue exercising or losing weight if you do it with a partner.
- ✓ Keep a record. Knowing how much progress you have made will encourage you to keep going.
- ✓ Go public. Many people find that it is helpful to tell other people about their resolutions. Post your plans on Facebook. Let your friends know how hardworking you are! They will support you.
- ✓ Reward yourself. If you are successful in achieving your goal, give yourself a little gift. If your resolution is to get organized, buy yourself something that is useful for organizing your home or office.

It's not too late to make a meaningful change in your life! Make your resolutions now!

7. Which statement expresses the main idea of the blog post?
  - a. Most people don't keep their New Year's resolutions.
  - b. Specific strategies can help you keep your New Year's resolutions.
  - c. The best way to change your behavior is to make a resolution.

8. Which statement is true according to the passage?

- a. Most people keep their New Year's resolutions.
- b. The most popular resolutions are related to relationships.
- c. Sharing your resolutions can help you reach your goal

9. “**go public**” has the same meaning as .....

- a. keep your resolutions when you are near other people
- b. tell lots of people about your resolutions
- c. do things outside to keep your resolutions

10. “**reward yourself**” has the same meaning as.....

- a. recognize your efforts
- b. buy nice expensive things for yourself
- c. take a break from your goals once in a while

## **PART II: CHOOSE A, B, or C**

11. I think Susan would make a really good salesperson. She is so ..... and has no problem talking to people she doesn't know.

- A. Outgoing
- B. Modest
- C. Considerate

12. Brad never talks about all the important things he has done. He is .....

- A. trustworthy
- B. modest
- C. easygoing

13. Every report that Mario writes is complete, correct, and delivered on time. He even does extra work sometimes. Mario is .....

- A. serious
- B. hardworking
- C. considerate

**14.** Sometimes it's hard to get off the phone when I am talking to my mother. She's a bit ..... and always has a lot to tell me.

- A. outgoing
- B. easygoing
- C. talkative

**15.** Last week when I was so sick, Miki stopped by and brought me some chicken soup and some beautiful flowers. She is so .....

- A. considerate
- B. trustworthy
- C. modest

**16.** I always ask Felipe to take the money to the bank when we close the store at the end of the day. He is .....

- A. serious
- B. trustworthy
- C. easygoing

**17.** Jeff is..... about the role of the arts in early education. He believes music helps children to learn other subjects.

- A. moody
- B. passionate
- C. energetic

**18.** Jessica always has interesting ideas that no one else in our writer's group has thought of. She is extremely .....

- A. egotistical
- B. difficult
- C. imaginative

**19.** I don't like working with Phillip because he is so .....He objects to every suggestion that I make on our drawings, and he is never satisfied with anything I do.

- A. egotistical
- B. eccentric
- C. difficult .

**20.** Our daughter Alice started playing the violin when she was just five years old. Her music teacher told us she was the best student he had ever had. He said she was .....

- A. gifted
- B. difficult
- C. moody

**21.** Is it true that your piano instructor Marco wears the same sweater every day and only eats peanut butter sandwiches? No wonder people call him .....

- A. moody
- B. eccentric
- C. passionate

**22.** Tomorrow is our anniversary—did you remember .....your boss for the afternoon off?

- A. to ask
- B. asking
- C. asks

**23.** I considered .....him a voicemail but instead I waited to speak to him in person.

- A. to leave
- B. leaving
- C. left

**24.** I didn't expect ..... her so much, but she is really a sweetheart.

- A. liking
- B. to like
- C. likes

**25.** We are not permitted ..... private phone calls from work.

- A. to make
- B. making
- C. made

26. She doesn't mind..... late at the office if we have a big project due.

- A. to stay
- B. staying
- C. stays

27. I ..... (listen) to a lot of rap music these days. I am starting to really enjoy it.

- A. has listened
- B. have been listening
- C. are listening

28. I ..... (not see) the new hip-hop Broadway musical yet, but I hope to see it next month.

- A. have been seeing
- B. haven't seen
- C. haven't been saw

29. We .....(wait) in line for two hours to buy tickets for the Beyoncé concert. I guess she is more popular than we thought!

- A. has been waited
- B. have been waited
- C. have been waiting

30. I .....(explore) the Museum of Fine Arts already. There are a lot of amazing sculptures and paintings on display.

- A. have explored
- B. have been explored
- C. have exploring

### **PART III: FIND THE MISTAKE:**

31. What I really (enjoy) (be) the beat (of) reggae music.

32. She asked us ( bring) (her) something (to eat)

33. when I feel (stressed) I (find) classical music very (relaxed)

34. She wants (to eat), (to sleep), and (cooking)

35. Most of my friends find me to be (imaginative), (energy) and (friendly).

#### PART IV: MATCHING:

- 36. You've got to roll with the punches
- 37. It's just a matter of time
- 38. You're just a sitting duck
- 39. It isn't my thing
- 40. It's right up your alley

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- A. You think someone will definitely be interested in something
- B. It will certainly happen in the future
- C. There's nothing you can do to protect yourself
- D. It's not my personal taste
- E. You have to deal with life's difficulties and move on.

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