READING

Task 4

Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (17–21). There are three choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

OPRAH TALKS TO RICHARD BRANSON

Richard Branson — one of the most extraordinary men — tycoon, visionary, knight, and founder of Virgin Airlines.

Oprah: **(17)** ____

Richard: If anybody knows about that power, you do! I love creating things, and as an entrepreneur, I've taken on quite a lot of major corporations and done well. Capitalism is the only system that works, but it has its flaws. That wealth obviously brings extreme responsibility.

Oprah: **(18)** ____

Richard: They certainly encouraged it. They're also good examples of it. My mother has done everything from belly dancing to climbing mountaintops, and in her late 80s, she hasn't slowed down. She spends a lot of time with the Berbers in Morocco, teaching them English. We're still a very close family, and that closeness has given me lots of strength. My parents travel with me wherever I go. They were with me at the first Elders conference in South Africa.

Oprah: **(19)** ____

Richard: In Africa, villagers look up to elders; they are the moral voice of their community. My friend Peter Gabriel and I felt that the world needed a group of wise leaders to look up to — men and women who are beyond ego, who can look past their borders and take on global issues. That's why we created the Elders — a group of 12 respected people who can intervene in the world's conflicts.

Oprah: **(20)** ____

Richard: I'd love for the Elders to still be around in a thousand years' time. I want to see the group build credibility in the world. I'd also like them to address other major issues, like global warming, dwindling fish stocks, and the horror of unnecessary disease. For instance, AIDS should never have gotten out of control in Africa; it's unforgivable that the world community allowed it to get out of hand.

Oprah: **(21)** ____

Richard: This issue is of paramount importance — global warming could snuff out humankind. It's an invisible war that could ultimately destroy life itself, and we need politicians and businesspeople to get together and treat it as a third world war. If we can't get our governments to wake up and do something about it, then I'm not hopeful.

A Where did the idea for the Elders come from?
B What is your natural temperament?
C What's the source of your drive to contribute to the world?
D How do you feel about the survival of the planet?
E What is your ultimate hope and expectation for the Elders?
F Which of the Elders are going?
G Did your parents inspire your creativity and courage?
H What is it like to start Virgin?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 5

Read the text below. For questions (22–26) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

GREAT STORIES BEHIND FAMOUS WORKS OF ART

Art is unique because it speaks to each individual on a personal level. Whatever a work of art might mean to you, it won't necessarily mean the same thing to the person standing behind you, and both could be completely different than the meaning intended by the artist. That being said, art also has plenty of stories to tell. These stories are accrued over decades, even centuries, and are there for those willing to look closely enough.

Michelangelo's David is probably the most famous statue in the world. However, not many people get to stare David in the face. That's for two reasons. One, the statue is over 5 meters (17 ft) tall, and two, it is placed facing a column in the Galleria dell'Accademia in Florence and has been that way since 1873.

From the location everyone sees him, David looks imposing and confident. Up close, however, his look betrays nervousness, aggression, and even fear. Michelangelo would not have given him this expression randomly, which is why people now conclude that David is depicted getting ready to fight Goliath. This is backed up by others' claim that David is holding a weapon in his right hand, most likely a fustibal.

Two Florentine doctors examined David and remained astounded at the level of detail put into the statue. The tension in his right leg, the tightening of the muscles between his eyebrows, and the flaring of the nostrils are all present and are all consistent with David getting ready to sling a stone at an enemy.

22 Not all people can see Michelangelo's David close because _____ .
A they are embarrassed to see the naked body
B feel shy standing nearby
C aren't allowed to come close to the column
D of the location relative to the structure it's placed

23 David's figure is seen _____ .
A from behind
B from the front
C from the side
D from above

24 At the statue David looks _____ .
A bold and noble
B unsure and eccentric
C impudent and furious
D shy and infirm

25 The doctors were _____ by the performance of the statue.
A betrayed
B bewildered
C confused
D alarmed

26 David's _____ shows his readiness to fight.
A weapons
B whole figure
C eye expression
D limb

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 6

Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (27–32). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

HEALTHY FOODS

27 _____

Though technically a fruit, they are most often served like a vegetable. Full of lycopene, these beautiful red orbs are renowned for their cancer-fighting capabilities. Not only are they chock-full of vitamin-y goodness (from vitamins A to K), but they also keep our blood pressure in check and help to reduce the number of free radicals in our bodies.

28 _____

These orange wonders are loaded with eye-, skin- and hair-enriching nutrients. They're also the richest vegetable source of some important antioxidants, like vitamin A. And because they're rich in vitamin C, they protect your cardiovascular system from damage.

29 _____

This root vegetable has dozens of anti-cancer nutrients, like vitamin A, C and manganese. They're also a good source of fibre and iron, so not only do they give you energy, but they can also help regulate your digestive system.

30 _____

High in heart-healthy nutrients, these blue or violet vegetables are rich in antioxidants like nasunin (a unique compound that protects your brain cells from damage). And because they are loaded with fibre and potassium, researchers believe they may reduce your risk of stroke and dementia.

31 _____

Whether you prefer red, orange or yellow, they are packed with dozens of heart-healthy nutrients like lycopene and folic acid. And recent research suggests digging into a plant of the genus Capsicum every day may lower your risk of developing lung, colon, bladder and pancreatic cancers.

32 _____

These pungent-smelling veggies are particularly good for people suffering from (or at risk of developing) osteoporosis. That's because they are loaded with a peptide called GPCS, which scientists believe slows your body's loss of calcium. They may also be useful in the fight against heart disease and diabetes because they're loaded with vitamin C and folate.

What are the top veggies based on their nutrient profiles and potential to fight disease?

A Eggplants
B Sweet potato
C Cucumbers
D Onions
E Spinach
F Bell peppers
G Carrots
H Tomatoes

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 7

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one which best fits each space (33–38). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

The Milky Way contains billions of Earth-sized planets **(33)** _____ . That's the finding of a new study. It draws on data that came from NASA's top planet-hunting telescope.

A mechanical failure recently put that Kepler space telescope out of service. Kepler had played a big role **(34)** _____ orbiting some 170,000 stars. Its data have been helping astronomers predict how common planets are in our galaxy. The telescope focused on hunting planets that might have conditions **(35)** _____ .

The authors of a study published November 4 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences now conclude that between 14 and 30 out of every 100 stars with a mass and temperature similar to the sun may host a planet that could support life as we know it. Such a planet would have a diameter at least **(36)** _____ , but no more than twice that big. The planet also would have to orbit in a star's habitable zone. That's where the surface temperature would allow any water to exist as a liquid.

The new estimate of how many planets might fit these conditions comes from studying more than 42,000 stars and identifying suitable worlds orbiting them. The scientists used those numbers to extrapolate to the rest of the stars that the telescope could not see.

The estimate is rough, the authors admit. If applied to the solar system, it would define as habitable a zone starting **(37)** _____ as Venus and running to as far away as Mars. Neither planet is Earthlike. Using tighter limits, the researchers estimate that between 4 and 8 out of every 100 sunlike stars could host an Earth-sized world. These are ones that would take 200 to 400 days to complete a yearly orbit.

Four out of every 100 sunlike stars doesn't sound like a big number. It would mean, however, that the Milky Way could host more than a billion Earth-sized planets **(38)** _____ .

A as close to the sun
B that could support life
C to prove the hypothesis
D alone in the world
E similar to those on Earth
F in creating a census of planets
G with a chance for life
H as large as Earth's

LIVEWORKSHEETS