TASK 2

Read the text below. For questions (6-11) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, D).

ANCIENT DNA REWRITES THE HISTORY OF THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH

Fifteen thousand years ago, woolly mammoths and North American horses roamed the cold grasslands that then covered much of Alaska and the western Yukon. They're extinct now, but we know quite a bit about them because of the fossils they left behind in places like Old Crow, the Klondike, and parts of Alaska.

However, we don't know when they disappeared or why. The conditions that preserve bits of dead animals as fossils are rare, and the chances of finding the fossil remains of the last woolly mammoth or the last North American horse are so small that they make winning the lottery look like a sure thing.

But animals leave more than bones behind — and that other evidence is rewriting the prehistory of North America. Animals shed bits of their genetic material as they move through a landscape. It comes from their feaces, their urine, dropped hairs, and even sloughed-off skin cells. Modern instruments and lab techniques can detect that genetic material and identify its source.

If the circumstances are right, the genetic material — the DNA — can be preserved for thousands of years. The frozen sediments underlying parts of the Yukon watershed provide exactly those circumstances. University of Alberta researcher Duane Froese and an international team are analyzing sediment cores from several places in the Yukon and Alaska in search of the last of the big ice age mammals, the megafauna.

The first of the evidence is in, and it's startling. Sediment cores from a site near Stevens Village, on the Yukon River in Alaska, show that woolly mammoths and North American horses survived in that area until at least 10,500 years ago, and maybe even later. That's well after the end of the ice age, and several thousand years later than previous estimates— based on fossil bones and teeth— for the disappearance of both animals from North America. The findings throw doubt on a couple of theories developed to explain the extinction of the ice age megafauna: the Blitzkrieg hypothesis and speculation about an extraterrestrial impact.

Froese says the Blitzkrieg hypothesis argues that when humans arrived in the Americas, they hunted the large mammals to extinction very quickly. However, the DNA evidence shows that humans coexisted with the ice-age animals for thousands of years. 'Interestingly, even though the DNA is fragmented and quite short, we could establish that there were two different mammoths that contributed DNA to the sample, and that they both belonged to a particular herd that were related to the last surviving populations recovered in Siberia on Wrangell Island.'

The DNA itself can't be dated, but its age can be determined by dating the sediment layer in which it occurs. In the parts of Alaska and the Yukon where the glaciers didn't reach, tens of thousands of years of sediment layers have accumulated beneath the current ground surface.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Froese and his colleagues have been sampling and dating those sediment layers for many years, but the idea of searching them for DNA first came up in 2003.

'We have a very exciting site in the Klondike, which our group has been working on. It covers the interval from 13,000 to 7,500 years before present. In fact, it's the best site I know of for this time interval in Yukon, Alaska, or Siberia.'

The researchers have spent two summers sampling and dating the Klondike sediments. The abundant plant material trapped in the sediments makes it possible to date them accurately. It also provides information about the environment of the past Froese says they're trying to track environmental change over those thousands of years and link it to what's known about changes in large mammal populations in the same period.

In the summer of 2010, the researchers will return to the Klondike sites. They'll also take a look at some likely sites in the Old Crow area. Sedimentary DNA — and what it can tell us about the last of the ice age megafauna — is high on the to-do list for next summer's research.

'We still have a lot to learn about how it can be applied,' Froese says. 'That's part of the motivation in expanding to new sites in the Yukon, to test some of the results from Alaska.'

---

6. To state the reason of North American horses extinction is difficult because ..... .
A nobody knows where they lived
B there are only a few fossil remains
C the snow covered their remains
D it's impossible to go to the northern parts of Alaska

7. Scientists can use ..... as the genetic material for experiments.
A bones B excrements C skin cells D all of the above

8. The genetic material for scientific researches was found ..... .
A in the university of Alberta C under the mass of snow in Alaska
B in the Yukon River basin D in the southern Yukon village

9. The international team of scientists proved that ..... .
A humans never hunted the large mammals
B people never saw the ice-age animals
C humans and big ice age mammals lived together for a certain period of time D people killed the large animals the moment they saw them

10. The age of the DNA can be revealed by ..... .
A trapping the materials under the snow
B dating the ground samples in which it was found
C sampling the northern glaciers
D relating the taken DNA to the animal species

11. The researchers are motivated to continue their work because ..... .
A they have found new sediment sites
B they want to check their previous deductions
C their university has been moved to Alaska
D sedimentary DNA is worth learning

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TASK 3

Read the text below. Match choices (A-H) to (12-16).
There are three choices you do not need to use.

CULTURAL EVENTS

By Cheryl Schroeder Basile

A cultural or international-themed event allows your guests to travel to exotic new places without stepping on an airplane. These events can be as simple or as elaborate as your budget and creativity allows. When planning international-themed events, most people immediately think of a Mexican fiesta, Hawaiian luau, Chinese New Year's celebration or an Italian pizza and pasta party. When planning your cultural event, consider some unique themes.

12. .....

Who wouldn't want to spend a day in the City of Lights? Decorate the room with posters of the French capital and pots of tulips and hyacinth. Drape wisteria over metal or wood lattice panels. Use round cafe-sized tables with Eiffel Tower-shaped votive candles. Play French background music by Yves Montand, Charles Aznavour, Jacques Brel or Mireille Mathieu. Make place cards from old postcards. Serve a variety of French wines and cheeses complemented by strawberries and slices of apples and pears.

13. .....

Take your guests back to ancient Egypt with this party. Check with your party rental agency for things that you can adapt to create an Egyptian environment, like stone pillars, palm trees and canvas desert-style tents. Play a travelogue DVD on Egypt during the party, projecting the images on one large blank wall. Cover tables with brown craft paper and sprinkle sand on them. Serve platters of shish-kabobs, pita bread, dried fruit. How about a pyramid- or sphinx-shaped cake?

14. .....

This party captures the romance of Doctor Zhivago. Place evergreen trees around the room. Sprinkle them and the floor with artificial snow. Cover tables with white fleece; sprinkle with iridescent glitter. Suspend plastic snowflakes from the ceiling at various heights. Decorate one corner of the room with a real troika or horse sleigh. Lightly spray windows with artificial ice crystal spray for a frosted windowpane look. Play 'Lara's Theme' and other music from Doctor Zhivago during the party. Serve tea from a samovar. For appetizers, serve crackers topped with caviar or smoked salmon. The menu could also include beef stroganoff and cherry-filled blinis.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

15. .....

Start with a large canvas tent or drape fabric from ceiling to create a tent effect. Remove all furniture and cover floors with carpets and large velvet cushions. Place pots of palm and fern plants around room. Serve food on low coffee tables illuminated by oil lamps. Serve al-kabsa, a traditional Saudi chicken and rice dish. A CD of Middle-Eastern music will add an exotic ambiance to the party.

16. .....

Decorate as elegantly as your budget will allow. Rent a backdrop with an image of a Venetian canal or the Rialto Bridge. Your party rental store may also have a gondola available, which would be great for guest photos. Drape tables with black and white harlequin-patterned tablecloths and include centrepieces made with ostrich feathers and Venetian masks. Serve Venetian cicchetti (appetizers) like fried crab claws, marinated sardines, calamari, veal meatballs or stuffed porcini mushrooms. Don't forget to serve Spritz, Venice's most popular drink, which is made with white wine, mineral water and Campari aperitif.

A Venetian Carnival

B April in Paris

C Russian Winter Wonderland

D New Year's Celebrations in China

E A Cruise Down the Nile River

F Midnight at the Oasis

G Eating pizza in Italy

H Hawaiian Wedding

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TASK 4

Read the text below.
Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (17-22).
There are two choices you do not need to use.
Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

The Christmas shopping season is in full swing, and many of us will be spending several hours, or even days, trailing round the shops or surfing the Web, struggling **(17)** ..... for the special people in our lives. But if you're the sort of person **(18)** ..... if it's a trial to be endured and dealt with as quickly as possible, then there's a new term of reference for you — you belong to the ranks of the grab-and-goers.

A grab-and-goer is a person **(19)** ..... — sees it, grabs it, goes to pay. The classic grab-and-goer is someone **(20)** ..... , whatever they're shopping for and whatever the time of year. However the expression is also sometimes used to describe a person who buys things quickly because they simply don't have enough time **(21)** ..... — they need to get that purchase made so that they carry on with the rest of their day. **A** person **(22)** ..... is an example of this kind of grab-and-goer.

The term grab-and-goer most often crops up in the domains of retail and marketing, where product packaging and methods of display are crucial in attracting the attention of quick and impulsive buyers.

A to find the right way to the shop
B for whom Christmas shopping is positively the worst way to spend your precious free time
C to linger over the decision
D who regularly buys breakfast en-route to work
E who lends you money for shopping
F to find those perfect gifts
G who buys things quickly and without any deliberation or forward planning
H who just dislikes shopping

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TASK 5

Read and complete the text below. For (23-34) **choose the correct answer** (A, B, C or D).

THE TREE AND THE VEGETABLES

By Pedro Pablo Sacristan

Once upon a time, there was a lovely vegetable **(23)** ..... , on which grew a very leafy tree. Both the patch and the tree gave the place a wonderful appearance, and were the pride and joy of the garden's **(24)** ..... . What no one knew was that the vegetables in the patch and the tree couldn't stand each other. The vegetables hated the tree's **(25)** ..... , because it left them only just enough light to survive. The tree, on the other hand, resented the vegetables because they drank nearly all the water before it could get to him, leaving him with just enough to survive.

The situation became so extreme that the vegetables got totally **(26)** ..... and decided to use up all the water in the ground so that the tree would dry up. The tree answered back by refusing to shade the vegetables from the hot midday sun, so they too began to dry up. Before long, the vegetables were really **(27)** ..... , and the tree's branches were drying up.

None of them suspected that the gardener, on seeing his vegetable patch deteriorating, would stop watering it. When he did that, both the tree and the vegetables really learned what thirst was. There seemed to be no **(28)** ..... , but one of the vegetables, a small courgette, understood what was going on, and decided to **(29)** ..... it. **(30)** ..... the little water available, and the unforgiving heat, the little courgette did all he could to grow, grow, grow...

He managed to grow so big that the gardener started watering the patch again. Now the gardener wanted to enter that beautiful big courgette in some gardening **(31)** ..... .

And so it was that the vegetables and the tree realised that it was better to help each other than to fight. They should really learn how to live in **(32)** ..... with those around them, doing the best they could. So they decided to work together, using **(33)** ..... the shade and the water in the best combination to grow good vegetables. Seeing how well they were doing, the gardener now gave the best of care to his vegetable patch, watering and **(34)** ..... it better than any other patch for miles around.

23	A piece	B patch	C chunk	D strip
24	A dealer	B purchaser	C owner	D holder
25	A shield	B tint	C shadow	D shelter
26	A overjoyed	B gloomy	C fed up	D indifferent
27	A bony	B skeletal	C lean	D scrawny
28	A key	B clarification	C result	D solution
29	A fix	B elect	C conclude	D resolve
30	A In spite of	B Despite	C Although	D Notwithstanding
31	A contest	B race	C rally	D quiz
32	A harmony	B integrity	C balance	D cooperation
33	A two	B both	C the two	D one and the other
34	A feeding	B raising	C harvesting	D fertilising

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TASK 6

Read the texts below.

For the empty spaces (35-46) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT JANUS

Janus is the Roman god of doorways, beginnings, change, and transition. He was a very important figure in the Roman pantheon, typically (35) ..... first during prayers, and the cult of Janus was at one point very widespread in Rome. Janus (36) ..... on in some surprising places; the first month of the year, January, is named for Janus, as are janitors, the keepers of doors and keys. The most striking and memorable feature of Janus is probably his two or sometimes four faces. In classical art, he (37) ..... with two faces which pointed in opposite directions, illustrating his role as a guardian of doorways; with two faces, he could look out on either side of the doorway to see what (38) ..... . On occasion, busts of Janus showed four faces instead of two, and in full statues, Janus typically holds a key in his right hand.

Janus' original role was probably as the guardian of doorways, with his later duties being added by subsequent worshipers. The link between doorways and new beginnings is pretty obvious, as is the association with change. Janus (39) ..... at major life events like coming of age parties, weddings, and New Year's parties, with those present praying to Janus for good fortune.

Janus also came to be associated with war, (40) ..... the Janus Geminus, a large temple in Rome. By tradition, the doors of this temple (41) ..... open during periods of war, and closed in periods of peace. Soldiers often visited the temple (42) ..... its doors in the hopes of being blessed by the god so that they could perform (43) ..... in war.

The god was also linked with endings, as a doorway can appear at the end of a journey just as it can at the beginnings. In some regions, Janus was said to be capable of (44) ..... events, thanks to his double-faced head, which presumably didn't miss much. Romans sought advice from Janus about major decisions, hoping that he (45) ..... illuminate the best path to follow.

In the modern era, Janus is also used as a metaphor for the often complex nature of humanity. Janus is often referenced in art with two-faced individuals who have (46) ..... different faces, such as the face of a man and the face of a woman. The Romans probably did not think about Janus in this way, although they undoubtedly thought about duality and betrayal, just as modern people do.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

For the empty spaces (35-46) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

35 A was naming
B being named
C having named
D have named

36 A has lived
B lived
C lives
D living

37 A was depicted
B had depicted
C is depicted
D has been lived

38 A happened
B was happening
C has been happening
D is happening

39 A often was worshipped
B is often worshipped
C was often worshipped
D has been often worshipped

40 A thanks of
B thanks to
C thanks on
D thanks off

41 A was left
B had been left
C are left
D were left

42 A to pass in
B to pass out of
C to pass at
D to pass through

43 A good
B better
C well
D best

44 A predicting
B having predicted
C predicted
D being predicted

45 A can
B could
C was able to
D will

46 A marked
B mark
C markedly
D marking

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WRITING

TASK 1

Read the text below.
Fill in the gaps with the one word which best fits each space (47-50).
Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

WHAT'S A BLIZZARD?

A snowstorm is when snow falls from the sky as precipitation. A blizzard is the worst kind of snowstorm, in **(47)** ..... strong winds blow snow into snowdrifts (huge piles) that can bury people and possessions. Its official definition is a tempestuous, frigid snow storm with blustery, piercing winds of 35 miles per **(48)** ..... or more and a wind-chill factor as low as -20° Fahrenheit. Transportation is difficult and dangerous during blizzards **(49)** ..... air temperatures can be 10°F or lower, with visibility less than 400-500 feet.

When there is no much snow that people and animals cannot tell the earth from the sky, it is known as a whiteout. In this disoriented state, humans and livestock can **(50)** ..... their way and freeze to death. Blizzards carry the risk of hypothermia, frost bite, suffocation, and being stranded. Sub-zero temperatures, arctic conditions, and 100 mph winds in mountainous regions pose additional threats.

TASK 2

51. On a separate sheet of paper write **a short paragraph** (100-120 words) about your friend's holiday plans for this summer.
Include the following points:

- where he/she wants to spend his/her summer;
- whether he/she goes somewhere or stays at home;
- what he/she is going to do in each months of the summer;
- with whom he/she will spend most of he/she days.

LIVEWORKSHEETS