

II. READING PAPER (60 minutes, 25 points)

B→ Part 1 (5 points, 1 point per item). You are going to read four short descriptions (A–D) about Olympic Stadiums. For questions 26–30, choose from descriptions A–D. The descriptions may be chosen more than once. An example (0) has been done for you.

A London 2012

This amazing stadium, surrounded completely by water, will be the first ever stadium with large removable elements and temporary removable seating. Seating capacity can be reduced from 80,000 to 25,000, providing a smaller facility for future UK generations. The place where the Olympic Stadium is now located, was a large dumping area and more than four million tons of waste were removed from the soil. Since the stadium is surrounded by water, access to the Olympic park is via a series of bridges and entrances set radially around the bowl.

B Sydney 2000

The stadium was originally built to temporarily hold 110,000 spectators, making it the largest Olympic Stadium ever built. Tents were also added over the North and South stands, which means that now most of the seating is under cover. Specially designed for the unique Australian environment, the stadium is one of the few in the world which effectively shades and protects most spectators, without the need for a claustrophobic and grass-killing fully enclosed dome. The roof is constructed from translucent polycarbonate to minimise the shadows and patches of direct sunlight on the playing area. This creates ideal conditions for TV broadcasts and for spectators.

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C Montreal 1976

The Olympic Stadium has a seating capacity of 56,000 people. The Olympic Stadium was not only the home of the Montreal Expos, Montreal's professional baseball and football teams, but also is the largest exhibition center in Canada. Although the Olympic Stadium is mainly used for exhibitions and trade shows, there are various special events held at the Olympic Stadium. Some of the events held at the Olympic Stadium include sporting events, concerts and exhibitions. The Olympic Stadium is one of Montreal's most popular attractions. Each year the stadium attracts nearly 2.5 million visitors. Its landmark is Montreal Tower. At 175 meters, the tower features impressive views of Montreal.

D Beijing 2008

The shape of the stadium looks like a big nest. Since October 2008, after the Olympics ended, the National Stadium has been used as a center for international and domestic sports competitions. The stadium can accommodate 80,000 fixed seats. The top is covered by a semi-transparent air bubble film. This kind of material is waterproof and allows sunshine into the stadium. Owing to this, the lawns in it can grow well. No matter where the spectator is seated, the whole game can be seen without any visual obstruction.

Adapted from website *olympic-stadiums*

Which stadium

0. is built on an environmentally dangerous site?
 26. changes its size easily?
 27. is used not only for sports events?
 28. was designed having the country's climate in mind?
 29. offers a perfect view from any position?
 30. offers a spectacular panorama of the city?

0	A
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	

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B→ Part 2 (5 points, 1 point per item). You are going to read a text about a professional bike rider. For questions 31–35, complete the text with the words from the box below. There are **two** words which you do not need to use. An example (0) has been done for you.

FREESTYLE BIKE RIDER

Two years ago Scottish street trials rider Danny MacAskill was just a normal guy working a nine-to-five job as a mechanic in an Edinburgh bike shop, thinking of what was possible to do on a bicycle in the hours after work. In March 2009, he took a (0) risk and left his job to ride full time. A month later his friend released a video of MacAskill moving in the air and balancing across Edinburgh's famous buildings, parks, and streets on his bike. No one had seen (31) _____ like this before.

The video became widely popular. First friends and then (32) _____ strangers forwarded it via email and posted it on Facebook. MacAskill's bravery and skill spoke to people, even those who had never heard of the mysterious sport of street trials. In such rides bicyclists use different building structures to create physical (33) _____ that are solved by moving from obstacle to obstacle. The video was viewed 27 million times.

MacAskill could have been a one-hit (34) _____. But when his 2011 short film *Industrial Revolutions* was viewed three million times on YouTube in just one month, he proved he wasn't. The film featured him riding through Scotland's empty factories, jumping between train cars, and riding across a two-inch track hanging 15 feet above rocks. What MacAskill can do on a bicycle, his body moving, (35) _____, and then shooting upward in a seamless tangle of man and bike, makes us look at our daily environment in a new way.

Adapted from *National geographic*

catching	fitness	pausing	puzzles	riding	<u>risk</u>	total	wonder
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Part 3 (6 points, 1 point per item). You are going to read about the English spelling. Seven sentences have been removed from the text. For questions 36–41, choose from the sentences A–I the one which best fits each gap. There are **two** sentences which you do not need to use. An example (0) has been done for you.

ENGLISH IS TOO HARD TO READ FOR CHILDREN

The English spelling system is 'absolutely, unspeakably awful'. That is the conclusion of new research that has found that children face 800 words by the age of 11 that hinder their reading because of the way they are spelt. (0) I The words have all been identified as problematic for reading, as opposed to writing, because of their 'phonic unreliability'. Masha Bell, a former teacher and author of the book *Understanding English Spelling*, carried out the research and argued that there were 200 words on the list that could be improved by simply dropping 'surplus letters' such as the 'i' in *friend* or the 'u' in *shoulder*.

'English has an absolutely, unspeakably awful spelling system. It is the worst of all the alphabetical languages. (36) _____ They do not exist anywhere else,' said Bell.

Bell claims that sweeping reforms are needed to the spelling system to improve children's linguistic skills. The spelling system was a huge financial burden on schools and was to blame for poor literacy results compared with the rest of Europe. In Finland, where words are more likely to be pronounced as they look, children learn to read fluently within three months, she said. (37) _____

In the research Bell highlights examples of words that have the same pronunciation but different letter combinations. Examples include *to* and *two*; *clean* and *gene*; *same* and *aim*; *day* and *grey*; *kite* and *light*; and *stole* and *coal*. Words such as *too*, *true*, *who*, *flew*, *shoe* and *you* all employ different letters to represent the same sound. Then there are those that look alike but sound different. (38) _____ Among the words falling into that category are *eight* and *height*, *break* and *dreamt*, and *move* and *post*.

Simplifying the system would transform literacy results, according to Bell, but she said people were resistant to change. 'People feel that they have suffered so much at the hands of English spelling that they are reluctant to look at it,' she said. (39) _____ The parliament in Portugal, where the spelling system is also thought to be complicated, voted to reform and simplify it. In 1928 the Turks changed their entire alphabet from Arabic to Latin. In Germany there were changes made in the 1990s to make the writing system more consistent. English is also no stranger to change. (40) _____

John Wells, president of the Spelling Society, wants to see things change again and feels there are two possible approaches. The first would be to simplify the way in which words are spelt and then allow people to choose whether to use the new or old system, while the second approach would involve a complete change. 'The Spelling Society favours the first,' he said.

Chris Davis, spokesman for the National Primary Head teachers' Association, said the spelling system had a major impact on children's literacy progress: 'It definitely slows English children down. Let's take what's happening elsewhere. (41) _____ However, teachers would be reluctant to see things change. It would be such a major revolution that people would find it very difficult to contemplate.'

Adapted from *The Guardian*

- A Such combinations as 'ci', 'ca' and the letter 'o' cause the most trouble.
- B In international comparisons, languages that phonetically match always come out on top.
- C It is unique in that there are not just spelling problems but reading problems.
- D The way basic words are spelt makes it much easier for children to read and write.
- E In the UK, however, academics have found that it takes three years for a child to acquire a basic level of competence.
- F However, other countries have made changes.
- G Children are struggling to read and write because of the sheer complexity of the spelling system.
- H For example, words such as 'olde' and 'worlde' dropped the 'e'.
- I They baffle children as they contain letter combinations that are pronounced in a different way.

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Part 4 (9 points, 1 point per item). You are going to read a text about modern technologies. For questions 42–46, choose from statements A–H the one which best summarises each paragraph. There are **two** statements which you do not need to use. An example (0) has been done for you. For questions 47–50, find words in the text to complete the sentences. An example (00) has been done for you.

COMPUTERS ALL AROUND US

- | |
|---|
| <p>A Developing interaction between car and driver
 B Competition between car makers
 C Junk storage place
 D The return of traditional computers
 E Better entertainment systems in cars
 F The connectivity wherever you go
 G The end of the traditional PC era
 H An unusual task</p> |
|---|

0. H

Genevieve Bell has spent the past few months travelling to several different countries, rummaging in people's cars, and photographing and recording what she found in them. Ms Bell is neither a private investigator nor a spy. Instead she works for Intel, the world's biggest maker of semiconductors, where she runs a team that helps the company analyse how people interact with technology.

42. _____

An anthropologist by training, Ms Bell says her interest in cars and their contents – which were unpacked with their owners' permission – is a reflection of the fact that vehicles have become places where people use a great deal of personal gadgetry. Her photos often reveal what she calls 'a wasteland of electrical detritus' inside vehicles: everything from multiple chargers for different kinds of electronic devices to music CDs and other artefacts of people's digital lives. 'Cars are a perfect proxy for mobile phones,' she says, 'because people load lots of stuff into them to be prepared for any emergency and then rarely throw anything out.'

43. _____

Intel's curiosity about how people use technology in cars is hardly surprising. Carmakers are keen to install extra computing power in their vehicles in order to impress customers with a taste for technology, and Intel hopes that this will translate into a big new market for its chips. Ford, for instance, has already developed an operating system, which allows drivers to make calls, play music and do other things using voice commands. Photos or videos will be wirelessly transmitted to displays in the passenger seats of a car. The car company has also created AppLink, a feature that lets people link their smartphones to a vehicle's voice-control system and operate their apps with it.

44. _____

Japan's Toyota plans to make driving even more personal by helping people's cars 'talk' to them. The firm has announced plans for a Twitter-like private social network, called Toyota Friend, which will be integrated into some electric and hybrid vehicles in Japan next year. Based on software from Microsoft, this will enable a car to send a tweet-like message to its owner telling him that, say, its battery is running low or a maintenance check is due. The car company foresees many more 'product social networks' that will create more intimate relationships between people and the devices they own.

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45. _____

It is not just vehicles that are becoming more connected. So are homes, public places like sports stadiums and even aircraft, where passengers are now sometimes offered in-flight Wi-Fi services for an extra charge. Cisco, a big IT firm, reckons that there could be almost 15 billion devices linked to the Internet in circulation by 2015, up from 7.5 billion last year. These will include everything from televisions and gaming consoles to coffee machines and cookers.

46. _____

This has led researchers such as Ms Bell to conclude that ubiquitous computing, or 'ubicomputing' to its fans, is no longer the realm of science fiction. In a series of articles in the 1990s Mark Weiser, the chief technologist at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Centre laid out a vision of a world in which computers would be everywhere yet all but invisible. Instead of the conventional desktop or laptop, Mr Weiser and one of his colleagues, John Seely Brown, predicted that in this new era of 'calm technology' gadgets would adapt to people rather than vice versa.

Adapted from *The Economist*

For questions 47–50, find words in the text to complete the sentences. Write no more than **one** word. An example (00) has been done for you.

00. What was Genevieve Bell's aim of spending months in people's cars?

She wanted to see how people interact with technology.

47. What do G. Bell's photos represent?

They are a _____ of how people's cars have become a wasteland of electrical detritus.

48. Why do people collect so many things in their cars?

They want to be sure they are ready in case of _____.

49. What will future cars warn drivers about?

It's time for a regular _____ check.

50. How will future computers be different from today's computers?

They will become _____.

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