



## VSTEP - PLACEMENT TEST

LEVEL: B1

Time: 20 minutes

### A. LISTENING:

Part 1: There are eight questions in this part. For each question there are four options and a short recording. For each question, choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D. You now have 45 seconds to look through the questions and the options in each question.

**1. When is the man's appointment?**

- A. Wednesday      B. Thursday      C. Friday      D. Tuesday

**2. Which is the aunt's postcard?**

- A. a pretty village right by the sea      B. big trees  
C. a pretty village behind the tall trees      D. a pretty village on the hills

**3. What time will the plane to Milan leave?**

- A. 01:00      B. 07:15      C. 08:15      D. 06:15

**4. Which present has the girl bought her mother?**

- A. earrings      B. music CD      C. pen      D. notebook

**5. What time will the pie be ready?**

- A. four fifteen      B. five o'clock      C. twenty past five      D. fifty past four

**6. What time is the swimming lesson today?**

- A. half past four      B. fifteen to five      C. fifteen past five      D. four thirty

**7. Which subject does the boy like best?**

- A. information technology      B. geography      C. sports      D. design

**8. Which T-shirt does the boy decide to buy?**

- A. a short-sleeved T-shirt with round neck      C. a V-neck black T-shirt  
C. a long-sleeved T-shirt      D. a sleeveless white T-shirt

**Part 2: You will hear three different conversations. In each conversation there are four questions. For each question, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. You will hear the conversations only once.**

**Conversation 1: You will hear a conversation between a girl, Kate, and a boy, George.**

**9. What is Kate's health problem?**

- A. She has coughs
- B. She has headache
- C. She has toothache
- D. She has stomach ache

**10. What does Kate's problem affect her classmates?**

- A. It makes them funny
- B. It makes them annoyed
- C. It makes them happy
- D. It makes them excited

**11. What did Kate have last year?**

- A. She had coughs
- B. She had headache
- C. She had a fall off her bike
- D. She had stomach ache

**12. What does Kate have now, too?**

- A. She has backache
- B. She has headache
- C. She has toothache
- D. She has temperature

**Conversation 2: You will hear a conversation between a man and a woman at home.**

**13. Why does the man want to go out?**

- A. Because he feels bored staying at home.
- B. Because he feels safe staying at home.
- C. Because he feels cold staying at home.
- D. Because he feels hot staying at home.

**14. Why does the woman want to stay at home?**

- A. Because she has coughs.
- B. Because she feels tired.
- C. Because she has toothache.
- D. Because she has stomach ache.

**15. Why doesn't the woman want to watch an Italian film?**

- A. Because she is short of money.
- B. Because she is serious about it.
- C. Because she's afraid she will fall asleep watching it.
- D. Because she has stomach ache.

**16. Why doesn't the woman want to watch a Robert de Niro?**

- A. Because she feels too busy to watch it.
- B. Because she feels too serious to watch it.
- C. Because she doesn't want to watch it the third time.
- D. Because she doesn't want to watch it the second time.

**Conversation 3: You will hear a conversation between a girl, Lisa, and a boy, Ben, about holidays.**

**17. What does the girl think about a good holiday?**

- A. It may be cheap.
- B. It may be very cheap.
- C. It may be expensive.
- D. It may be very expensive.

**18. Why doesn't the boy want to walk?**

- A. Because he feels too hot to do it.
- B. Because he finds it hard to do it.
- C. Because he doesn't like hard work.
- D. Because he doesn't like the sounds of people walking.

**19. What does the girl think about the food in Youth Hostels?**

- A. It is comfortable.
- B. It is good.
- C. It is not good.
- D. It is clean and cheap.

**20. What does the boy decide to do in the end?**

- A. go home
- B. leave home
- C. sell his home
- D. enjoy his holiday home



**B. READING: (30 minutes): PASSAGE 1 – Question 1 - 10**

A new study, conducted by scientists from Oxford University, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and the Chinese Center for Disease Control, has warned that a third of all men currently under the age of 20 in China will eventually die prematurely if they do not give smoking.

The research, published in The Lancet medical journal, says two-thirds of men in China now start to smoke before 20. Around half of **those men** will die from the habit, it concludes.

In 2010, around one million people in China died from tobacco usage. But researchers say that if current trends continue, that will double to two million people – mostly men – dying every year by 2030, making it a “growing epidemic of premature death”.

But co-author Richard Peto said there was hope – if people can be persuaded to quit. “The key to avoid this huge wave of deaths is cessation, and if you are a young man, don’t start,” he said.

In many parts of China, meals often fit a comfortable pattern. After putting down their chopsticks, men commonly push their chairs back from the table and light cigarettes. No wonder China has struggled to impose a smoking ban in public places. Here, relationships are often built amid clouds of smoke.

Expensive brands of cigarettes, often decorated with gold detailing on the cartons, are given as gifts. And ordinary brands are affordable to all but the very poor, costing just 2.5 yuan (\$0.4; £0.25) a pack.

In a country where smoking is so ingrained in daily life, few understand the harmful effects of tobacco use. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), only 25% of Chinese adults can list the specific health hazards of smoking, from lung cancer to heart disease.

Perhaps it should come as no surprise, then, that only 10% of Chinese smokers quit by choice. Instead, most are forced to give up their cigarettes because they’re too sick to continue.

While smoking rates have fallen in developed countries – to less than one in five in the US – they have risen in China, as cigarettes have become more available and consumers richer.

Authorities have shown concern over the rise, with **Beijing** even introducing a public smoking ban. But efforts have been **hampered** by the habit’s popularity, and its usefulness as a source of tax – the government collects about 428 billion yuan (£44 billion, \$67 billion) in tobacco taxes each year.

Globally, tobacco kills up to half of its users, according to the World Health Organization.

- How many Chinese men start to smoke before the age of 20?  
A. one-third      B. two-thirds      C. half      D. all of them
- What does the word “**those men**” in paragraph 2 refer to?  
A. Men who smoke under the age of 20  
B. Men who smoke above the age of 20  
C. Men who give up smoking  
D. Men who smoke in public
- By 2030, how many men in China may die from smoking every year?  
A. one million      B. two million      C. three million      D. four million
- In many areas of China, when do men usually smoke?  
A. Before a meal      B. After a meal  
C. Before they go to sleep      D. When they get up
- According to WHO, only \_\_\_\_\_ of Chinese adults can list bad effects of smoking.  
A. one-third      B. one-fourth      C. one-fifth      D. a half
- “**Beijing**” refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. China  
B. The city of Beijing  
C. The Chinese government  
D. People who live in Beijing
- What is Richard Peto’s attitude toward smoking in China?  
A. He doesn’t believe that people will give up smoking.  
B. He is disappointed with the Chinese government.  
C. He thinks that people possibly stop smoking if they see reasons.  
D. He is sure about the rise of future deaths in China.
- Which of the following words does the word “**hamper**” have closet meaning to?  
A. basket      B. assist      C. prohibit      D. restrict

9. What is the writer's purpose?

- A. To argue over smoking policy in China
- B. To support smoking in China
- C. To warn and prevent smoking in China
- D. To report the result of a research paper

10. What does the writer imply about Chinese government?

- A. They do not want to stop people from smoking.
- B. They have tried to stop people from smoking in public but with little success.
- C. They have tried to close tobacco companies.
- D. They do not care about smoking.

### PASSAGE 2 – Question 11 - 20

The evidence that humans are causing global warming is strong, but the question of what to do about it remains controversial. Economics, sociology, and politics are all important factors in planning for the future.

Even if we stopped emitting greenhouse gases (GHGs) today, the Earth would still warm by another degree Fahrenheit or so. But what we do from today forward makes a big difference. Depending on our choices, scientists predict that the Earth could eventually warm by as little as 2.5 degrees or as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

A commonly cited goal is to stabilize GHG concentrations around 450-550 parts per million (ppm), or about twice pre-industrial levels. This is the point at which many believe the most damaging impacts of climate change can be avoided. Current concentrations are about 380 ppm, **which** means there isn't much time to lose. According to the IPCC, we'd have to reduce GHG emissions by 50% to 80% of what they're on track to be in the next century to reach this level.

#### Is this possible?

Many people and governments are already working hard to cut greenhouse gases, and everyone can help.

Researchers Stephen Pacala and Robert Socolow at Princeton University have suggested one approach that they call "stabilization wedges". This means reducing GHG emissions from a variety of sources with technologies available in the next few decades,

rather than relying on on enormous change in a single area. They suggest 7 wedges that could each reduce emissions and all of **them** together could hold emissions at approximately current levels for the next 50 years, putting us on a potential path to stabilize around 500 ppm.

There are many possible wedges, including improvements to energy efficiency and vehicle fuel economy (so less energy has to be produced), and increases in wind and solar power, hydrogen produced from renewable sources, biofuels (produced from crops), natural gas, and nuclear power. There is also the potential to capture the carbon dioxide emitted from fossil fuels and store it underground – a process called “carbon sequestration.”

In addition to reducing the gases we emit to the atmosphere, we can also increase the amount of gases we take out of the atmosphere. Plants and trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> as they grow, “**sequestering**” carbon naturally. Increasing forestlands and making changes to the way we farm could increase the amount of carbon we’re storing.

Some of these technologies have **drawbacks**, and different communities will make different decisions about how to power their lives, but the good news is that there are a variety of options to put us on a path toward a stable climate.

11. The word “**we**” in paragraph 2 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. humans                      B. economists, sociologists, and politicians  
C. animals                      D. scientists
12. According to paragraph 2, how many degrees could the Earth warm up?
- A. 2.5                      B. 2.5 or 10                      C. 10                      D. from 2.5 to 10
13. According to paragraph 3, why should we stabilize GHG concentrations around 450-550 parts per million?
- A. to avoid the most serious effects of climate change  
B. to avoid all damaging impacts of climate change  
C. to mend the most damaging impacts of climate change  
D. to stop climate change
14. What does “**which**” in paragraph 3 refer to?
- A. current concentrations  
B. that current concentrations are about 380 ppm  
C. 380 ppm                      D. ppm

15. Why does the author mention Stephen Pacala and Robert Socolow?
- A. To introduce two researchers in the field
  - B. To prove that researchers are working to reduce GHG emission
  - C. To introduce one way to reduce GHG emission
  - D. To introduce Princeton University
16. What stabilization wedges are NOT mentioned in the passage?
- A. create environment-friendly materials
  - B. capture and store carbon dioxide underground
  - C. increase the use of renewable energy
  - D. grow more trees
17. What does "**them**" refer to?
- A. researchers      B. humans      C. renewable resources      D. wedges
18. What is the best title for this passage?
- A. Arguments over Global Warming      B. Global Warming and its Causes  
C. Global Warming Solutions      D. Global Warming's Effect on Earth
19. "**Sequestering**" has closest meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. absorb      B. isolate      C. release      D. emit
20. Why does the writer mention "**drawbacks**" in the last paragraph?
- A. To introduce the disadvantages of solutions in the following paragraph
  - B. To emphasize the disadvantages of the solutions in the previous paragraph
  - C. To recommend readers not to use the solutions
  - D. To emphasize the advantages of the solutions in different contexts

### C. WRITING:

#### Task 1:

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

Write a letter of complaint to a store where you purchased a faulty new phone. In your letter explain the following:

- where and when you purchased the phone
- what is wrong with it
- what action you would like the store to take

Your response will be evaluated in terms of task fulfillment, organisation, vocabulary and grammar. You should write at least 120 words.