

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.

17

Be healthy! Be Wealthy!

Our new program is specially designed for you! Train three times a week! Professional coaches and a spacious gym!

Attend a **free demo lesson** only this Friday!

18

Shopping BOOM!

Dresses! Skirts! Trousers! Shorts and Tracksuits! Shoes and accessories! World brands!

At great prices!
New and preowned items!
NO REFUND. NO EXCHANGE.

Visit us at 34, Button Str. Daily from 10 am to 8 pm

19

Let's colour the world!

Do you enjoy painting and drawing? Is an album or a sketchbook the best present for you? Join our classes and become a professional painter, designer or a future Dali!

Schedule: *Mon:* 5pm – 7 pm
Friday: 6pm – 8 pm

20

Fresh, juicy, **home-grown** with no pesticides!

Only the **best quality** vegetables and fruit for your healthy life!

Gathered from local farmers and delivered to our store!

NEW SERVICE!

Door-to-door delivery for our regular customers!

21

This Sunday!

Don't know how to put words in lines? How to express your emotions through letters, song, poems and essays?

A **free workshop** from a talented author
Bill Crew!

Where: Green Park (*near the fountain*)
Time: 12 pm – 4 pm

Which of the advertisements deals with:

?

- A** a writing class
- B** a vocal course
- C** an art course
- D** grocery shop
- E** a stock shop
- F** a fitness course
- G** a supermarket
- H** an acting class

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.

The Most Difficult Exam in the World

Preparation for Gaokao – the state entrance exam for higher education institutions in China – begins as early as elementary school. Initially, the term is used as a distant incentive for students to study hard, and later, tempered by years of stress and often expectations, students are aware of how high the stakes are since China's leading universities can enrol only one in 50,000 entrants.

The choice of an educational institution is responsible, the unemployment rate among university graduates is about 16%, so Alma Mater directly affects not only a career but also marital prospects. But the choice is not quite a choice, because it all depends on one single factor – the three-digit result of Gaokao. The maximum number of points is 750 and to score at least 690 means to get into the elite universities of the capital.

Gaokao is four or three-hour exams that take two days: Chinese, English, math and science (biology, chemistry, physics), or humanities (geography, history, political science), at the student's choice. For the most part, the questions are in the form of tests, but not at all simple ones. For example, a math exam is compared to university-level math in the UK. But for many graduates, the most terrifying work is the Chinese language exam. Most Chinese students believe that everything has the right answer, but the work is a free expression of thought through choosing a topic to discuss that cannot be true or false.

Gaokao is a symbol of the Chinese education system as a whole. In the west, it is often seen as monolithic and mechanical, and in China as strict but fair. In Europe and America, there is a perception that Chinese students are unable to think critically. Despite these thoughts, Chinese education is considered to be among the most prestigious and sufficient ones.

The tradition of a single exam that addresses a young person's perspective goes back to ancient times in China. Imperial exams, the so-called Keju, during which candidates for government positions were tested, were introduced during the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD) and became the only selection criterion for the VII century and until the cancellation in 1905, the applicants were taking the exam for three days. Only 1% of the best among the best were selected. Nervous breakdowns were commonplace, as there was no chance to re-sit the exam.

Hao-Kao is still a distant relative of Keju. First introduced in 1952, the exam was cancelled during the Cultural Revolution. At that time, most universities closed, and the rest of the seats were allocated according to political preferences rather than academic abilities. And in 1977, a year after Mao's death, Hao-Kao resumed its present form. Since 1978, Hao-Kao is held annually.

22 What does the choice of a future university depend on?

- A.** marital status of a student-to-be
- B.** only maximum of points to enter the university
- C.** final marks of the exam
- D.** financial support of parents

23 What is NOT true about Gaokao?

- A.** It is not taken in one day.
- B.** Students may choose the subjects to take.
- C.** The math exam is the most difficult one.
- D.** Students need to write an essay.

24 How Chinese education is seen in the world?

- A.** one of the world's leading educational systems
- B.** highly digital and computerized
- C.** too strict and difficult
- D.** not creative due to the critical method of learning

25 What is said about Keju exam in paragraph 5?

- A.** The exam is still run for three hours.
- B.** There was no chance to sit during the exam.
- C.** It was designed for state employees.
- D.** Only one per cent of young politicians could take it.

26 What happened during the period of the 1950s-1980s?

- A.** Keju was cancelled in 1952.
- B.** All universities stopped their work.
- C.** Students could enter the university only due to their academic performance.
- D.** The state test became an every year exam.