

PART 1

For questions 1 – 8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

The Mystery of Ancient Inks

In recent years, researchers have been fascinated by the discovery of ancient inks used in manuscripts and artworks. These inks, some of which are over 2000 years old, have turned 1 _____ in various archaeological sites around the world. The composition of these inks often 2 _____ clues about the methods and materials used by ancient civilizations.

One particular ink found in an Egyptian tomb was made using a mixture of soot and gum. It had been blended with a unique metal, which 3 _____ that it was used for special documents or ceremonial purposes. "The complexity of the ink's composition is truly 4 _____," says Dr. Emily Carson, a chemist specializing in historical artifacts. "It shows a high level of skill and knowledge of materials."

These ancient inks have 5 _____ interest among historians and chemists alike. They provide 6 _____ not only into the writing practices of the past but also into the cultural and trade connections of the time. In some cases, the ink's resilience through the centuries is a 7 _____ of the advanced techniques used in its creation.

Interestingly, the ability of these inks to withstand the test of time has puzzled many researchers. 8 _____ exposure to harsh environments, many of these inks have remained remarkably intact, preserving the history written with them.

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|-----|-----------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1.- | A. about | B. up | C. on | D. over |
| 2.- | A. gives | B. keeps | C. carries | D. brings |
| 3.- | A. advises | B. tells | C. points | D. suggests |
| 4.- | A. remarkable | B. surprising | C. shocking | D. unbelievable |
| 5.- | A. produced | B. created | C. sparked | D. generated |
| 6.- | A. insights | B. views | C. visions | D. glimpses |
| 7.- | A. verification | B. vision | C. light | D. sign |
| 8.- | A. Regardless | B. Besides | C. Despite | D. On account of |

Part 2

For questions 9 – 16, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

The Platypus

The platypus is an unusual creature because it looks 9 _____ a bird, and it can swim, but it also lives on land.

The platypus has soft brown fur, feet like a duck, a tail, and a bill.

The platypus 10 _____ eggs and keeps them in a nest. It belongs to a species called 'Monotremes'.

The platypus lives on an island called Tasmania, which is just south of Australia. It 11 _____ time in small rivers and streams 12 _____ it builds a home just above the water. 13 _____ the platypus can live on land; it prefers the water and spends about 12 hours per day swimming in the river.

One of the 14 _____ interesting features of the platypus is its special electric sense. That means a platypus can locate its victim using an electric field in its bill. Only the dolphin shares this same ability. The platypus is a meat-eater, so it likes to eat fish and worms in the river. 15 _____, the platypus has predators, too. It is a delicious meal for crocodiles and owls, so it must watch 16 _____ for these animals.

Part 3 –

For questions 17 – 24, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals after each gap to form a word that fits in the sentence.

EXAMPLE: He has always shown great dedication (DEDICATE) to the cause.

Do you know how to play an instrument? Some people think you need to be very 17 _____ (TALENT) to play well. While that may be true, the best musicians are people who have dedicated a lot of practice to developing their 18 _____ (ABLE). The first step is to choose an instrument you really like to play. Then, it's a good idea to find a good tutor who can show you the basic rules of music. Once you learn 19 _____ (MUSIC) theory, you can start to practice songs and pieces. It's important to remember that ninety percent of your 20 _____ (DEVELOP) is practice, so put aside time to play your instrument 21 _____ (REGULAR). If you have a difficult technical part, go very slowly and repeat that part several times until you have mastered it. Never despair, and remain 22 _____ (PERSIST)! Rome wasn't built in a day. Good musicians are 23 _____ (SIMPLE) people who love music so much that they devote their time and efforts to conquering the 24 _____ (DIFFICULT) of playing an instrument.

Part 4

You are going to read an article about environmental goals. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A – G the one which fits each gap (25 – 31). There is ONE EXTRA sentence which you do not need to use.

A Greener World

On April 22nd, 2016, 196 members of the United Nations group discussed and signed the Paris Agreement on climate change. 25 _____. The aim is not to allow temperature increases to rise more than two degrees Celsius globally. The final goal is to reach zero percent carbon in the air by the year 2050 to ensure further temperature increases are prevented. All members who signed the Paris Agreement must provide regular reports of their country's efforts to reach these objectives. 26 _____.

Globally, governments in several countries have created a practical plan to encourage a greener way of life worldwide. This action plan, aimed at creating a more ecologically sustainable planet, encompasses several key steps. 27 _____. Furthermore, it calls for the active adoption of green energy sources to replace fossil fuels while also promoting reduced travel and the production of goods primarily for essential purposes.

Moreover, citizens and groups must receive education from an early age about the importance of valuing natural resources. 28 _____. Additionally, markets for ecological services, such as eco-tourism, need to be developed. Businesses focusing on low-carbon products and services should receive incentives, such as reduced taxes.

In terms of construction, new buildings must prioritize energy-efficient design. 29 _____. Both residential and commercial buildings should be designed to utilize solar power and natural energy sources.

The automotive industry plays a crucial role in reducing pollution globally. 30 _____. This initiative aligns with the broader objective of creating eco-friendly transportation solutions worldwide.

A. Additionally, their data has to indicate a consistent reduction of carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

B. This should include a comprehensive understanding of alternative energy sources while discouraging the use of petrol vehicles.

C. It is a commitment to reduce climate change, as well as other financial and political agreements.

D. This sector is rapidly advancing in developing practical electric vehicles, which are becoming increasingly accessible to the general public.

E. Scientists are working hard in this area to increase new energy use and reduce the carbon footprint.

F. First and foremost, it necessitates a unanimous commitment from all countries to limit resource consumption, reduce waste, and enhance efficiency.

G. Artificial materials can be substituted with more natural alternatives; for example, wood could replace rubber.

Part 5

You are going to read a part of the memoir of a mountain climbing guide. For questions 32 – 41, choose from the sections (A – E). The sections may be chosen more than once.

Scaling New Heights

Jordan McKay discusses his passion for mountain climbing and its origins.

A
My connection with the mountains started in my childhood. My father was an avid climber and would often take me hiking on smaller trails. Gradually, my fascination with the mountains grew, and I realized I had an unquenchable thirst for climbing. Eventually, realizing the advantages of living closer to the mountains, my father decided to make the move, which allowed me to be just a short walk away from my next adventure. Living near the mountains is a climber's dream. Every morning, opening my window to the sight of towering peaks still gives me an adrenaline rush.

B
I never let the fact that I was often the youngest climber in the group deter me. Growing up, I always tried to match my older sister, who was a natural at outdoor sports. So there I was, a young enthusiast, eager to improve my skills by observing others and attempting challenging climbs. I climbed throughout the year, braving the cold winters and making the most of the long summer days. The harsher the conditions, the more I was determined to conquer the peaks.

C
As I got older, my climbing became more competitive. I started taking on more daunting climbs – higher, steeper, and more treacherous. Gaining confidence and accumulating experience was immensely satisfying, especially when I noticed my skills sharpening. Initially, the other climbers, mostly older, underestimated me due to my age. Convincing them that I was a serious climber was a gradual process.

D
With time and after several intense climbing experiences, I earned the respect of my fellow climbers. My ability to navigate difficult ascents and make quick decisions under pressure began to get noticed. When I started executing complex maneuvers with ease, the others started to acknowledge my skill. This camaraderie grew especially when I began participating in climbing competitions. Competing is tough, as the climbing conditions can never be predicted, leading to a lot of waiting and anticipation.

E
Now, as a climbing instructor, I have a new perspective. Teaching climbing means revisiting and breaking down every move I've made instinctively for years. It's a complex task but extremely rewarding. Seeing the excitement on my students' faces as they complete their first challenging ascent is priceless. Climbing has taken me to amazing heights and locations, and now it's bringing me fulfillment in a whole new way."

In which section does the writer mention...

- 32 feeling a sense of achievement after overcoming difficult climbs?
- 33 the inconvenience of waiting for the right weather conditions to climb?
- 34 a significant life event that enabled him to focus more on climbing?
- 35 persisting in climbing despite adverse weather conditions?
- 36 the joy he feels in witnessing the accomplishments of his trainees?
- 37 understanding that gaining recognition in the climbing community would take time?
- 38 someone else acknowledging his passion for climbing?
- 39 confessing that he has always climbed without overthinking the process?
- 40 not minding being different from others in their approach to climbing?
- 41 others noticing and respecting their serious approach to climbing?

Part 6

Look at the text in each question and choose the correct option.

42 This message tells David that Gary...

Hey David,
I've forgotten my science essay.
Can you look for it in the apartment
and give it to Louise in my class?

Thanks a lot, Gary.

- A. forgot to do his science essay.
- B. wants him to check the essay and give it to his flatmate.
- C. wants him to search for the essay and give it to Louise.

43 The notice says...

Notice:
The library is closed because of
problems in the building. It will stay
closed until

March next year.

- A. there were problems building the library, so it is not open until next March.
- B. the library won't open until next March because of problems in the building.
- C. the library will close next March because of problems in the building.

44 This message says...

Hi Maggie,

I can't meet you as my car is getting
checked at the mechanic. Call me
around 7.

Lily

- A. Lily can't meet Maggie because she will be at the mechanic.
- B. Lily can't meet Maggie at 7 because her car is broken.
- C. Lily can't meet Maggie because of her car.

45 The ad says...

Welcome to Teddy's Kids' Zone!

Children may play with all toys.

Running is not allowed.

- A. Running in Teddy's Kids' Zone is forbidden.
- B. Children can bring all their toys.
- C. Running is dangerous.

46 The ad says...

Complaints are no longer managed
by Customer Service.

Any complaints can be sent to
contact@mycomplaint.com

- A. Customer Service used to deal with complaints.
- B. Customer Service will only respond to emailed complaints.
- C. If you have a complaint, you must send an email to Customer Service.

Part 7

Read the text and for each question, choose the correct answer.

The Maple Tree

The maple tree is a commonly recognized tree, especially known for its vibrant autumn colors. Found in cool, temperate 47 _____, this tree is popular in many parts of North America. During autumn, its leaves change from green to brilliant shades of orange, red, and yellow, and often become a tourist 48 _____ in regions where they flourish.

Many might simply see the maple tree as a decorative plant, but it has multiple 49 _____ that go beyond its visual appeal. Historically, its wood has been used for crafting furniture, musical instruments, and even for making syrup. Nowadays, if you 50 _____ in your kitchen, you might find maple syrup, a sweet liquid 51 _____ from the sap of the maple tree, which is a popular topping for pancakes and waffles.

The production of maple syrup is quite fascinating. The sap is collected during the early spring when temperatures start to 52 _____ after the winter, and it's later boiled down to produce the syrup. This sweet treat has become a staple in many breakfast dishes around the world.

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|------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 47.- | A. climates | B. weathers | C. surroundings | D. circumstances |
| 48.- | A. distraction | B. attraction | C. deviation | D. diversion |
| 49.- | A. jobs | B. uses | C. tasks | D. duties |
| 50.- | A. glance | B. see | C. watch | D. look |
| 51.- | A. shaped | B. made | C. built | D. formed |
| 52.- | A. grow | B. lower | C. drop | D. increase |