

Speaking (20 pts)

A. Winter Festival Project

Listening (20 pts)

B. ▷ Listen and complete the sentences. Write between one and five words for each answer.

1. Last month's _____ was great fun.
2. His parents and _____ bought him some lovely presents.
3. The _____ made him think of when was a teenager.
4. At the end of the night, _____ took taxis home.
5. He wants to thank _____ for a special birthday.

Writing/Grammar (25 pts)

C. Choose the correct option a–c to complete the sentences.

1. I'm really terrified of snakes. _____, I've never been close to one in real life.
 - a Remarkably
 - b Luckily
 - c Unfortunately
2. Some languages are very difficult to learn, but, _____, there are several people who can speak over twelve of them!
 - a amazingly
 - b personally
 - c unfortunately
3. Omar really wanted to travel to Australia this summer but _____ he has just lost his job so can't afford to go.
 - a naturally
 - b remarkably
 - c sadly
4. _____ for our neighbours, they weren't at home when a lorry crashed through their garden wall yesterday.
 - a Fortunately
 - b Curiously
 - c Interestingly
5. It's true that not everybody has a good voice. _____, I am a terrible singer!
 - a Personally
 - b Surprisingly
 - c Naturally
6. _____, cats can apparently jump up to six times their own length!
 - a Sadly
 - b Fortunately
 - c Amazingly

7. My boss has been offered a better job abroad. _____, he's going to discuss it with his family before he makes a decision.
- a Naturally
 - b Fortunately
 - c Surprisingly
8. Many people find long films hard to concentrate on. _____, I enjoy them, but only if I'm at home rather than at the cinema.
- a Curiously
 - b Personally
 - c Interestingly
9. _____ for their fans, the Netherlands have never won the football World Cup, although they have played in three finals.
- a Luckily
 - b Unfortunately
 - c Naturally
10. This is usually a popular restaurant, but _____, it's completely empty this evening.
- a curiously
 - b naturally
 - c sadly

D. Choose the correct answer from the words in italics.

A few years ago I spent a holiday in Indonesia, and while I was there I ¹ *took / was taking* a boat trip to a remote island. I have always been interested in birds and ² *was being told / had been told* that there was some great bird-watching on the islands. As soon as we reached our destination, everyone ³ *went / had gone* in different directions to explore. I was so keen to do the same that I ⁴ *hadn't listened / wasn't listening* when the guide told us what time to return to the boat. I ⁵ *set off / had set off* towards a beach I could see in the distance, where I ⁶ *had hoped / hoped* to find some interesting birds. After spending some time looking at some fabulous wildlife through my binoculars, and after I ⁷ *had taken / was taking* several photographs, I suddenly ⁸ *had realized / realized* that I had no idea what the time was, or when we were meant to be back at the boat. I quickly gathered my things and ⁹ *raced / was racing* back when I saw the boat disappearing into the distance. Luckily, one of the other passengers ¹⁰ *was noticing / had noticed* that I was missing and the boat soon turned around to pick me up. Much as I loved the island, I didn't really want to spend the night there alone!

E. Choose the correct option a–c to complete the sentences.

1. I love listening to music _____ I'm in the bath. It's my favourite way of relaxing!
- a by the time
 - b during
 - c while
2. _____ their new model of smart phone came out, there were people queueing up to buy one.
- a As soon as
 - b Until
 - c Meanwhile
3. In most countries around the world, people aren't able to vote _____ they are eighteen years old.
- a while
 - b until
 - c during

4. Last night, Johanna was busy working in the library. _____, all her friends were out having a good time.
- a By the time
 - b During
 - c Meanwhile
5. _____ people reach the age of sixty-five, they have usually worked for many years.
- a As soon as
 - b While
 - c By the time

Reading (20 pts)

- F. Read the article about bad news in the media. Then complete the sentences. Use one, two or three words from the text for each answer.**

Bad news stories

Many of us complain that there is too much bad news in the media these days, and that journalists tend to focus on negative stories rather than happier, more positive ones. However, a recent study carried out at a university in Canada revealed some rather unexpected results, and it's possible that it's us, the reader, who is at fault, rather than the media.

The researchers weren't convinced that most people really prefer to read good news, and criticized past experiments as being unreliable, so they set out to do some of their own, in order to get to the bottom of things. One of their criticisms of previous research was that it relied on the participants doing tests in their own homes and reporting back their results, rather than being observed under proper scientific conditions.

In these new tests, the researchers monitored the participants as they read news stories, and they noticed that they often chose to read ones with a negative angle. Strangely, this was particularly true of those subjects who had claimed that they preferred news stories about current affairs and society. This led the researchers to believe that many of us may be fooling ourselves, and are in fact more negative than we actually think.

One possible explanation for this is that humans may have an inbuilt negative side, called a 'negativity bias', which makes us naturally focus on danger and disaster. Apparently this isn't simply that we enjoy reading about other people's bad luck, but rather it could be that evidence of bad news signals that we need to change our behaviour in order to avoid potential threats. In other words we are always on the lookout for negative signs that could represent dangerous situations, so that we can change our behaviour appropriately. Laboratory tests also proved that we respond more quickly to negative words such as 'war' or 'bomb' than to words such as 'smile' or 'baby'; when asked to hit buttons flashing up particular words, reactions were quicker when negative words appeared.

Another possible explanation is that we all have a more positive image of ourselves and our lifestyles than is actually realistic. We like to think of ourselves as better than average, and believe that things will have a positive outcome. For that reason, when we are faced with negative news or events, they have much more of a contrast for us and stand out more.

1. Who do people often blame for negative stories in the news? _____
2. How did the researchers describe previous research on this topic? _____
3. Where had experiments been done in the past? _____
4. What does reacting quickly to bad news help people get ready for? _____
5. What type of view do people usually have about life in general? _____

G. Read the article again. Decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F). If there is no information about this, choose 'not given' (NG)

1. New research says that journalists are less negative than other people.
T / F / NG
2. People who like current affairs are more likely to read negative news stories.
T / F / NG
3. It was proved that the results of all previous experiments were wrong.
T / F / NG
4. We generally have a faster response to positive words than negative ones.
T / F / NG
5. People with positive attitudes generally have better lives.
T / F / NG