SỞ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
THÀNH PHỐ HỒ CHÍ MINH

ĐỀ CHÍNH THỨC

(Đề thi gồm 04 trang)

KỲ THI CHỌN HỌC SINH GIỎI LỚP 9 CẤP THÀNH PHỐ
NĂM HỌC 2025 - 2026
MÔN: TIẾNG ANH
Ngày thi: 18/3/2026
Thời gian làm bài: 120 phút (*Không kể thời gian phát đề*)

LISTENING (20 pts) ***There are two recordings. You will listen to each recording twice.***

PART 1. *You will hear a talk about the history of ice cream. For questions 1 to 10, fill in each blank with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS.*

- In ancient civilizations, icy treats were largely enjoyed by (1)_____.
- To freeze icy treats, well-off people in Mediterranean used snow and (2)_____ collected from the mountains while ancient Persians used a technique called "(3)_____."
- Ice cream was inspired by sherbet which originated from Persia and became more popular in the (4)_____.
- In 1692, Antonio Latini, a Neapolitan (5)_____, wrote a recipe for a unique milk-based version, which is dubbed the first ice cream.
- George Washington is believed to have spent more than 6,000 dollars on ice cream in one single (6)_____.
- In Philadelphia in 1843, Nancy Johnson (7)_____ a machine that made ice cream using a crank and beater.
- In the late 1880s, Italian immigrants worked as (8)_____ to sell ice cream.
- American pharmacists came up with the soda fountain which mixed ice cream with soda which was believed to have (9)_____ at the time.
- Thanks to advancements in (10)_____, ice cream could be stored in freezers in households and in ice cream trucks.

PART 2. *You will hear an interview in which two biologists are talking about bats. For questions 1 to 5, listen carefully and choose the correct option (A, B, C or D) to answer the question.*

1. What was the main purpose of the experiment?
   A. to confirm the results of an earlier experiment B. to test a specific theory about how bats navigate
   C. to identify different navigational strategies in bats D. to compare two specific navigational methods bats use
2. What do the speakers say about bat's use of sounds to navigate?
   A. It has never been fully understood by scientists. B. It doesn't explain their ability to travel long distances.
   C. It is used in combination with other senses. D. It is actually a misconception.
3. Why do the speakers mention the Earth's magnetic field?
   A. to point out a limitation of their experiment B. to illustrate the complicated ways bats navigate
   C. to explain how different it was from the local field D. to explain the logic behind the experiment's design
4. What was an important feature of the experiment?
   A. It was repeated on two separate occasions. B. Two sets of bats were fitted with different devices.
   C. The bats were released from different locations. D. Two groups of bats were released at the same time.
5. What do the speakers imply about their experiment?
   A. It probably does not fully explain bat behavior. B. It provides a foundation for further research.
   C. It could have been done in a different way. D. It suggests abilities that may be true of other animals.

USE OF ENGLISH (20 pts)

Choose the word or phrase (A, B, C or D) that best completes the sentence.

1. The city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania _____ its early success entirely to the rise of the steel industry.
   A. set B. contributed C. owed D. indebted
2. When we lived in Manila, we _____ at one of the city's many roadside food stalls.
   A. would often eat B. were often to eat C. may often eat D. have often been eating
3. It's unsafe to set hot water tanks below 140 degrees Fahrenheit because _____ the growth of pathogens.
   A. does it encourage B. so does encourage C. doing so encourages D. doing so it encourages
4. Saying that every famous and successful movie star is talented would be a far _____ from the truth.
   A. act B. cry C. call D. world
5. The _____ of spending a few weeks on a sunny beach greatly excited him.
   A. perspective B. prospectus C. prospect D. practice
6. I'm afraid by the time we get permission for the project, the investors _____ out.
   A. will back B. will be backing C. will have backed D. are going to back
7. The manager requested that no one _____ told of her decision to resign until the next meeting.
   A. being B. be C. were D. to be
8. The early explorers are speculated _____ the island centuries before it was documented.
   A. to reach B. having reached C. reaching D. to have reached
9. He _____ the keys on the table – I checked there twice!
   A. might have put B. can't have put C. needn't have put D. should have put
10. Are there enough cookies to go _____?
   A. away B. over C. off D. round

LIVEWORKSHEETS

11. – Minh: "The meeting has been postponed." – Tam: "_____"
A. That figures. B. Speak for yourself. C. I'm all set. D. Don't push your luck.
12. Creativity is not _____ limited to artists; it can be found in science, business, and everyday life.
A. inherently B. intimately C. independently D. restrictively
13. The runner collapsed in exhaustion, only fifty meters _____ of the finish line.
A. less B. brief C. short D. slight
14. Most students don't have a problem designing a study plan; the problem they have is _____ it.
A. sticking to B. keeping up C. finishing up D. working out
15. _____ his wife had warned him repeatedly about the risks, he went ahead with the investment anyway.
A. Inasmuch as B. Unless C. Provided D. Much as

Choose the word or phrase (A, B, C or D) that is incorrect.

16. The delegates (A), visibly exhausted, had barely (B) entered into the room (C) when the smoke alarm went off (D).
17. We would be delighted to receive (A) feedbacks (B) from the attendees as regards (C) the relevance of the topics discussed (D).
18. Vivian resented to be excluded (A) from decisions in which (B) she should have had (C) a say (D).
19. The competition featured (A) five teams, each comprising (B) of students from (C) various provinces across (D) the country.
20. She found it puzzled (A) in that (B) her colleagues opposed (C) the plan despite their having supported (D) a similar proposal before.

WORD FORMS (40 pts)

PART A. *Fill in the blank with the appropriate form of the word given in brackets.*

1. Towering mountains _____ the valley created a natural barrier against the harsh winds. (**CIRCLE**)
2. _____ , the museum had to cancel the exhibition due to unforeseen technical issues. (**REGRET**)
3. The documentary sparked a(n) _____ interest in marine conservation among young viewers. (**NEW**)
4. The journalist was criticized for having _____ professional boundaries during the interview. (**STEP**)
5. The sudden _____ of the account raised concerns about the platform's security policies. (**ACT**)
6. I didn't have the _____ idea what the lecturer was rambling about. (**FOG**)
7. War is one of the greatest _____ to human progress. (**IMPEDE**)
8. The comedian's _____ jokes left the audience shifting uneasily in their seats. (**CRINGE**)
9. His argument was _____, relying on vague assumptions rather than solid evidence. (**PAPER**)
10. The team secured _____ victories on their way to winning the championship. (**BACK**)

PART B. *Put the words given in the correct blanks. You have to use their correct forms to make a meaningful passage. There are two extra words that you cannot use.*

respect	**identity**	**mark**	**exist**	**censor**	**count**
society	**commemorate**	**represent**	**pick**	**denial**	**free**

How often have we heard how technology is making us (11)_____? But what about the other less (12)_____ effects technology is having on us? Take, for instance, the (13)_____ of information on search engines, which often confirms users' (14)_____ beliefs, allowing them to construct views (15)_____ of what is proven. This (16)_____ of facts can be dangerous in polarising society. Then there are small but (17)_____ significant effects on our memory. Information is no longer being (18)_____ with answers only a click away. Few people commit phone numbers to memory, relying instead on their smartphones, in contrast to the pre-tech days when people had (19)_____ numbers in their heads. Unsurprisingly, the result is our recollection of information has (20)_____ deteriorated.

GUIDED CLOZE TEST (30 pts)

Read the passage and choose the best option (A, B, C or D) for each blank space.

Watching Old Faithful Geyser erupt is a Yellowstone National Park (1)_____. People from all over the world have (2)_____ there to watch eruptions from the (3)_____ area or along the boardwalks that (4)_____ around the geyser and through the Upper Geyser Basin. The park's wildlife and scenery might be as well-known today, but (5)_____ the unique thermal features like Old Faithful Geyser that inspired the establishment of Yellowstone as the world's first national park in 1872.

Old Faithful is one of (6)_____ 500 geysers in Yellowstone and one of six that park rangers currently predict. It is uncommon to be able to predict geyser eruptions with (7)_____ and Old Faithful was named for its (8)_____ performance. (9)_____ , the geyser has (10)_____ up to its name, only (11)_____ the time between eruptions by about 30 minutes in the last 30 years. Thermal features change constantly and it is possible Old Faithful may stop erupting someday. Geysers and other thermal features are (12)_____ of ongoing volcanic activity beneath the surface and change is part of this natural system. Yellowstone (13)_____ the natural geologic processes (14)_____ visitors may continue to enjoy this natural system. One tip is that if you visit the park in the winter time, you'll have Old Faithful nearly to (15)_____, if not completely!

1.	A. custom	B. routine	C. tradition	D. habit
2.	A. journeyed	B. tripped	C. voyaged	D. paraded
3.	A. observing	B. viewing	C. examining	D. watching
4.	A. turn	B. worm	C. knit	D. weave

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5.	A. they were	B. there were	C. it was	D. such were
6.	A. mainly	B. roughly	C. closely	D. largely
7.	A. commonality	B. frequency	C. normality	D. regularity
8.	A. consistent	B. persistent	C. insistent	D. competent
9.	A. So far	B. By far	C. As far	D. This far
10.	A. gotten	B. lived	C. caught	D. owned
11.	A. to lengthen	B. lengthened	C. lengthening	D. lengthen
12.	A. evidence	B. indication	C. signal	D. confirmation
13.	A. reserves	B. conserves	C. preserves	D. perseveres
14.	A. in case	B. in order	C. as long as	D. so that
15.	A. your own	B. yourself	C. your name	D. your liking

READING COMPREHENSION (20 pts)

Choose the item (A, B, C or D) that best answers each question.

Architect Victor Gruen is often called the father of the shopping mall. His ideas helped to define the retail experience for generations of shoppers around the world. Born in Vienna, Gruen had recently immigrated to the US when, in 1939, he was asked to design a New York retail outlet. His design included a grand arcade with faux marble, glass cases, and shimmering glass ceilings. It was, he said, a "customer trap", designed to lure customers off noisy streets regardless of their interest in the products. The concept was revolutionary, and Gruen soon found himself designing stores for real estate developers full-time.

In 1951, he founded his own firm. By this point, Gruen had formed a philosophy based on bringing urban culture to a rapidly suburbanizing America. The firm quickly became one of the nation's busiest, responsible for creating many of the large shopping malls that came to dominate suburban commerce. His first mall, built in 1954, was seen as the future of American shopping. Previously, shopping centers had used an extroverted style, with stores facing outward onto parking areas. Gruen's mall was introverted, with storefronts facing inwards, surrounding a courtyard with ponds and sculpted trees. It also offered multi-story shopping, with stores and parking on multiple floors. The result caused a **sensation**; critics and shoppers raved about the mall's atmosphere, convenience, and design.

Soon developers were replicating Grune's concept across the country. But where Gruen had hoped to create centers of urban sophistication, most developers lowered costs and focused on pure consumption. Gruen was **appalled**. He had wanted to create better versions of American downtowns – mixed-use complexes for a diverse range of people, but without urban traffic or congestion. Instead, the typical mall was a **gigantic shopping machine**, occupied by national retailers and surrounded by parking lots.

Disillusioned, the architect returned to Austria. When he arrived, he found a new shopping center had been built near his home. To his dismay, Gruen not only saw his ideas twisted into something he opposed, but those same distorted visions travelled back to his country with him.

1. What is the passage mainly about?
   A. the history of the shopping mall
   B. the popularity of shopping centers
   C. an influential architectural movement
   D. an architect's influence on urban design
2. What was a central feature of Gruen's philosophy?
   A. slowing the pace of suburban retail development
   B. enabling a diverse range of people to mix together
   C. enjoying urban shopping in a more relaxed atmosphere
   D. encouraging urban populations to shop in the suburbs
3. What can be inferred about Gruen's reputation?
   A. It was controversial during his lifetime.
   B. It grew after the success of his first projects.
   C. It declined toward the end of his career in the US.
   D. It positively influenced European architects and landscape designers.
4. What was an innovative feature of Gruen's 1954 mall?
   A. centralizing all parking and shopping activities under one roof
   B. creating a retail environment that included elements of nature
   C. designing a space where retail could be combined with recreation
   D. reversing the traditional extrovert style of shopping centers
5. What is meant by the phrase "**gigantic shopping machine**" as it is used in the third paragraph?
   A. a retail establishment created on a small budget
   B. a space that attracts people of all cultures
   C. a mall where only national retailers can be found
   D. a place that prioritizes consumption over culture
6. Why is Gruen's Austrian experience mentioned in the final paragraph?
   A. to call attention to the design features that Gruen objected to
   B. to demonstrate his lasting influence on commercial architecture
   C. to show that rapid suburbanization was a worldwide phenomenon
   D. to highlight his dissatisfaction with how his ideas were interpreted
7. According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT TRUE?
   A. Gruen's first mall design went down well with critics and shoppers alike.
   B. Gruen envisioned malls as multi-purpose complexes.
   C. Developers who copied Gruen's concept did not take costs into much consideration.
   D. Gruen's firm was commissioned to create many large shopping malls.
8. Which of the following is "**appalled**" in paragraph 3 closest in meaning to?
   A. amazed
   B. agitated
   C. disappointed
   D. overwhelmed

LIVEWORKSHEETS

9. Which of the following is "**sensation**" in paragraph 2 closest in meaning to?
A. excitement B. frustration C. fury D. exasperation
10. Which of the following designs is most aligned with Gruen's philosophy?
A. one with storefronts facing outward B. one that can serve a wide range of customers
C. one that cuts costs to the bone D. one with a high volume of traffic

OPEN CLOZE TEST (40 pts)

Fill in each blank with ONE suitable word to make a meaningful passage.

PASSAGE A

One of the biggest trends of the internet age has been the rise of social media influencers who share their advice and recommendations with (1)_____ to their YouTube channels, or followers on their Instagram accounts. The most successful influencers have audiences of millions, all hungry to learn what's hot and what's not. (2)_____ to say, where there's influence, there's money. Marketers were quick to realise that a glowing recommendation from a top influencer can be far (3)_____ powerful than a traditional marketing campaign. As a result, influencers can make outrageous sums of money in (4)_____ for a few not-so-subtle recommendations. To be sure, many influencers started (5)_____ with modest ambitions, by giving genuine recommendations based on their expertise, but later, once their audiences have grown and the marketers start offering money, the temptation to give paid-for recommendations can be overwhelming. Of course, it wasn't (6)_____ before a few pushy parents spotted the potential for turning their babies and toddlers into child influencers – or kidfluencers. After all, what better way to sell tacky toys and sugary snacks to children than to (7)_____ other children do the selling? In many countries, there are tight (8)_____ on advertising to – and with the help of – children. But because kidfluencing isn't exactly advertising, the kidfluencers (or, to be more precise, the marketers pulling the (9)_____) are able to exploit loopholes and make a fortune. And so we see pre-schoolers launching their own branded (10)_____ lines before they can read and write, and pre-teens with larger followings of adoring fans than A-list pop and film stars. This creates all kinds of ethical problems, but as long as the money keeps flowing, the rise of kidfluencers is only likely to continue.

PASSAGE B

The 100-meter dash, perhaps the highlight of any track-and-field competition, is replete with intriguing contrasts. Everything seems straightforward: the runners sprint in a straight line, each in his or her own separate (1)_____, without any special equipment, and everything is over in a (2)_____ of seconds. On the other hand, the complexity of the physical and mental exertions involved is (3)_____ that experts are only just beginning to answer questions such as how (4)_____ earth sprinters reach such seemingly superhuman speeds, and how and whether they could ever (5)_____ them. Indeed, research shows that successful sprinters generate extraordinary force when their feet strike the ground, while maintaining extremely brief contact with the track to keep up momentum. Achieving this balance of power and speed requires a highly refined running technique developed through relentless training.

Still, it remains a moot (6)_____ whether a human body will ever be (7)_____ of surpassing the current 100m world record by any appreciable margin. Maybe so, but only as a result not of deliberate training, but of a fortuitous genetic anomaly. The world of sprinting may have to wait for a (8)_____ to Eero Mäntyranta, the Finnish cross-country skier who was born with a slight genetic mutation as a result of (9)_____ his blood can carry more (10)_____ than the average human being.

SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION (30 pts)

Rewrite each sentence in such a way that it means almost the same as the one printed before it. Use the word in brackets without making any change to it. You can write NO MORE THAN TEN WORDS.

1. "I promise the committee will carefully investigate the issue," Neville said. **(looked)**
   → Neville gave an _____ by the committee.
2. The naughty kid admitted that he played tricks on the new students. **(fast)**
   → The naughty kid owned _____ the new students.
3. Thanks to the funding, the events are a great success. **(go)**
   → Were it _____ a hitch.
4. These seem to be sweeping reforms, yet it is too early to assess their impact. **(effectiveness)**
   → Far-reaching _____ be seen.
5. We must strictly follow the instructions to prevent accidents. **(out)**
   → So as _____ the letter.
6. Sarah wants her son to focus on his studies for now. **(sooner)**
   → Sarah would _____ being.
7. My sister is a better problem-solver than I am. **(match)**
   → When it _____ my sister.
8. It has been raining for two hours. **(set)**
   → It is _____.
9. My mom always makes sure that she closes all the windows before leaving the apartment. **(point)**
   → My mom makes _____ to leaving the apartment.
10. His behavior could, at no point, be described as transparent. **(imagination)**
    → By no _____ transparent.

THE END OF THE TEST

LIVEWORKSHEETS