Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

CHESS



Chess is **(1)** _____ of the world's oldest games of war. It is generally said to **(2)** _____ developed in India **(3)** _____ some period before 500 AD. The original pieces, much less mobile **(4)** _____ their modern counterparts, represented units **(5)** _____ the ancient Indian army, foot-soldiers, cavalry, armed chariots **(6)** _____, of course, elephants. The fighting troops **(7)** _____ led on the chessboard, as **(8)** _____ real life, by the king and his senior minister, the vizier, which became the queen in **(9)** _____ modern game. From India, **(10)** _____ is said, chess spread through China, Persia and Europe. Once the game **(11)** _____ reached the West, the identity and design of the individual chess pieces **(12)** _____ modified to reflect the social milieu **(13)** _____ medieval Europe. The biggest change was the emergence of the queen as the **(14)** _____ powerful piece **(15)** _____ the chessboard.

Until the twentieth **(16)** _____, chess was often regarded **(17)** _____ a game for the aristocracy of society, but today it exerts a **(18)** _____ broader appeal. Among board games, chess **(19)** _____ the ideal blend of strategy, tactics and pure skill. The only games which compare **(20)** _____ subtlety, science and depth **(21)** _____ shogi and go.

The competition aspect of chess makes it a battle **(22)** _____ two individuals, a battle **(23)** _____ bloodshed, but still **(24)** _____ fierce struggle of mind, will and physical endurance. More than anything **(25)** _____ though, chess has an ancient **(26)** _____ distinguished history. The game provides **(27)** _____ deep sense of continuity **(28)** _____ the intellectual community **(29)** _____ past ages, extending through hundreds of years and embracing **(30)** _____ nations.

Adapted from: *CAE Practice Tests Plus 1*

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