PART ONE: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Directions: *You will hear a text about **the birth of Jesus Christ** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **1 minute** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **3 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B** or **C**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

1. The division of the calendar according to Jesus' birth was introduced by the Romans.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

2. Originally "Christ" meant somebody appointed by God.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

3. The Christian and the Hebrew stories are similar.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

4. Mary gave birth to Jesus in an inn.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

5. The three Wise Men were Herod's princes.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

Directions: *You will hear a text about **Catherine Middleton's Birthday** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **2 minutes** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **4 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B, C or D**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

6. Catherine Middleton was born

A) on January 9, 1982.
B) on January 10, 1982.
C) on January 9, 1992.
D) None of the above.

7. The crowd near the red carpet

A) was respectfully silent.
B) shook hands with Steven Spielberg.
C) greeted Catherine repeatedly.
D) welcomed her with a cheer.

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8. The future princess

A) wore a fashionable velvet dress.
B) had no gem accessories on her.
C) wore a replica of her wedding dress.
D) was dressed in black.

9. Pipa Middleton

A) wore a suit at the Royal Wedding.
B) never bought clothes by the same designer.
C) attended London Fashion Week last September.
D) sat front at the Royal Wedding reception.

10. Rumours were circulating that Victoria Beckham

A) would be coming to the party.
B) had sent some garments for the birthday.
C) shared Cathrerine's taste for clothes.
D) was looking for a more simple style.

Directions: *You will hear a text about how **Steve Jobs Got Fired from Apple** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **2 minutes** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **4 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B, C** or **D**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

11. The narrator, Steve Jobs, considered himself a lucky man because

A) he had a place where to start Apple.
B) Apple had grown into a $2-billion company.
C) they had released their finest creation - the Macintosh.
D) he discovered his favourite occupation as a very young adult.

12. Steve Jobs was fired from Apple

A) as soon as another man was hired to run the company.
B) because he quarreled with the man he ran the company with.
C) because Apple was no longer his company.
D) after his future plans for Apple were partially backed up.

13. Steve Jobs was out of work

A) at the age of 30.
B) just before he turned 30.
C) despite the support of the Board of Directors.
D) but didn't care much.

14. Steve Jobs … … so he didn't leave the Silicon Valley.

A) didn't care that he was a public failure
B) immediately made up his mind what to do next
C) realized his unchanged love of his work
D) was pressed by financial issues to start over

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15. Steve Jobs entered one of the most creative periods in his life

A) thanks to being fired from Apple.
B) because he no longer had to carry the burden of success.
C) because he could again cherish the advantages of a beginner.
D) All of the above.

PART TWO: READING COMPREHENSION

Directions: *Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among A, B or, marking your answers on your answer sheet.*

Ghost Writers

Stories about ghosts and other spirits have scared people through the ages.

Some ghosts, however, are not to be feared. They are ghost writers. Just as a ghost is a spirit that you cannot see, a ghost writer is a writer whose name is unseen. A ghost writer is a person who is paid to write a speech, report or book for another person. Usually that other person is famous, but not as a writer. The ghost writer does the writing, and gets paid for it. But his name is not on the book as the writer. Instead, one sees the name of the other, more famous person. The ghost writer exists, but his name is unknown to the public.

Sometimes, famous people want to tell the story of their lives and how they became so successful. This kind of book written by a person about his own life is an autobiography. The person may have been a great success, as a movie star, for example. But he may not be much of a writer. So, a ghost writer is needed. The writer uses the ideas, memories and life history of the movie star to produce a book that seems written by the actor. The public may even believe the actor wrote the book. But the ghost writer knows better.

Ghost writing happens a lot in politics, too. Most political leaders, including legislators, are much too busy to write their own speeches. But politicians give speeches all the time – in Congress, to groups of voters, and during campaigns. So politicians have speech writers whose words become known, but whose names and faces are unknown.

16. In the past, people were scared to read stories written by ghost writers.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

17. You cannot see any name on a book written by a ghost writer.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

18. Ghost writers don't get anything for what they do.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

19. Ghost writers never go into details about the intimate life of the celebrity they are writing for.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

20. Ghost writing is not restricted to literary genres only.

A) True. **B)** False. **C)** No information in the text.

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Directions: *Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question correspondingly among A, B, C or D, marking your answers on your answer sheet.*

The owner of a missing cat is asking for help. "My baby has been missing for over a month now, and I want him back so badly," said Mrs. Brown, a 56-year-old woman. Mrs. Brown lives by herself in a trailer park near Clovis. She said that Clyde, her 7-year-old cat, didn't come home for dinner one day more than a month ago. The next morning he didn't appear for breakfast, either. After Clyde missed an extra-special lunch, she called the police. When the policeman asked her to describe Clyde, she told him that Clyde had beautiful green eyes, had all his teeth but was missing half of his left ear, and was seven years old and completely white. She then told the officer that Clyde was about a foot high.

A bell went off. "Is Clyde your child or your pet?" the officer suspiciously asked. "Well, he's my cat, of course," Mrs. Brown replied. "Lady, you're supposed to report missing PERSONS, not missing CATS," said the irritated policeman. "Well, who can I report this to?" she asked. "You can't. You have to ask around your neighborhood or put up flyers," replied the officer.

Mrs. Brown figured that a billboard would work a lot better than a piece of paper on a telephone pole. There was an empty billboard at the end of her street just off the interstate highway. The billboard had a phone number on it. She called that number, and they told her they could blow up a picture of Clyde (from Mrs. Brown's family album) and put it on the billboard for all to see.

"But how can people see it when they whiz by on the highway?" she asked. "Oh, don't worry, ma'am, they only whiz by between 2 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. The rest of the day, the highway is so full of commuters that no one moves." They told her it would cost only $3,000 a month. So she took most of the money out of her savings account and rented the billboard for a month.

The month has passed, but Clyde has not appeared. Because she has almost no money in savings, Mrs. Brown called the local newspaper to see if anyone could help her rent the billboard for just one more month. She is waiting but, so far, no one has stepped forward.

21. Which of the following is NOT TRUE?

A) Mrs. Brown asked for help as her cat was missing.
B) Mrs. Brown reported to the Missing Pets Department.
C) Mrs. Brown's cat had missed some meals.
D) Mrs. Brown's missing cat was displayed on a billboard.

22. The policeman realized that Clyde was a pet when he heard about

A) his ear.
B) his fur. **C)**
his height. **D)**
his age.

23. The policeman advised Mrs Brown

A) to inquire about her cat in the neighbourhood.
B) to hand out flyers with the cat's picture to passers-by.
C) to put up the cat's picture on a billboard.
D) All of the above.

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24. The billboard by the highway was a good place to put up an advertisement because A) a lot of people would whiz by it.
B) there were traffic jams almost all day long.
C) it was not expensive at all.
D) there was much traffic even at night.

25. Mrs. Brown has almost no money left
A) and she has no hope of finding her cat.
B) but she hasn't lost all faith.
C) since nobody wanted to help her.
D) after she called a local newspaper.

Directions: *Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question correspondingly among A, B, C or D, marking your answers on your answer sheet.*

"Where are you going now little man?" asked Big Momma.

Little Lemon Jefferson was just 10 years old, as he slowly walked down the dirty road near Wortham, Texas. Although he was born blind, he did not let that stop him from having fun and doing new and exciting things he loved to do, like fishing, camping and playing his guitar. Although he could not see, he developed his other senses, like his ability to hear sounds that most people could not or did not care to hear, like birds singing and insects buzzing. He could tell different musical notes when played on a piano or guitar. He could smell and tell the different kinds of flowers and roses around his house. And, he could feel things with his fingers and tell you what it was. Lemon would spend hours and hours sitting around the two-room house, listening to his Big Momma sing gospel songs.

"I am going fishing down at the lake, Big Momma," he replied. "I will be home after a while."

Lemon was walking to his favorite fishing spot on the banks of Lake Mexia. Some people believed that it was when he was away from home for hours that he learned how to play the guitar. He would practise for hours, placing his small fingers on the guitar strings, and developing his own unique style of music. At first, it was very difficult for Lemon just to find the right strings on the guitar to play notes and cords, but he never gave up and continued to practise. Everyday, after school, and after doing his bit of the housework to help his mother, he practised playing. Lemon would listen to different kinds of music on the radio, and then try to imitate the sounds on his guitar.

"What kind of music is that?" asked his older brother. "I have never heard music like that before."

"It is called the blues," replied Lemon. "It is something totally new." After several years of practising on his guitar just around the house and playing for his Big Momma, young Lemon was invited to play at a local festival.

"Come on, Lemon you are up next," said his brother. "I will help you get on the stage."

Well, it did not take very long before people enjoyed Lemon's unique style of music, and began inviting him to play at parties, social events and night clubs in cities like Groesbeck, Buffalo and Waco. It was around 1915 that Lemon moved to Dallas and made a name for himself singing the blues. In 1980, Blind Lemon Jefferson was inducted into the Blues Foundation's Hall of Fame.

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So, every year, on the second Saturday in September, people come from all over the Unite States to the small town of Wortham, Texas to listen to the blues, eat delicious food, meet friends and relatives, and remember the father of Texas blues, Blind Lemon Jefferson.

26. Lemon Jefferson

A) had been blind from birth.
B) got blind at the age of 10.
C) felt depressed by his blindness.
D) couldn't do the things he loved because of his blindness.

27. Lemon learned how to play the guitar

A) from his father.
B) from his mother.
C) from his older brother.
D) by himself.

28. Which of these activities young Lemon could NOT do alone?

A) Go fishing.
B) Climb up the steps of a stage.
C) Recognize different musical notes by ear.
D) Do any housework.

29. Lemon Jefferson

A) could play both the guitar and the piano.
B) could only imitate the tunes he heard on the radio.
C) could play as well as sing his blues.
D) only performed at events in his hometown.

30. Lemon Jefferson's talent is recognized

A) only by his immediate family and friends.
B) only by the people in his hometown.
C) only by the citizens of Texas.
D) by people from all parts of the States.

PART THREE: USE OF ENGLISH

Section One: Cloze Test

Directions: *Read the text below and for each numbered gap choose the letter (A, B, C or D) of the word or phrase that best suits the gap, marking your answers on your answer sheet.*

Macaulay Culkin

What happened to the adorable child actor from "Home Alone"? Fans were shocked to see a scruffy-looking Macaulay Culkin in a photo **(31)** ……on the streets of New York recently.

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Many of the well over 4,000 comments on the Yahoo! story showed concern **(32) ……**the star's health. Culkin shot to fame as an 8-year-old scene stealer in the "Home Alone" movies. At the height of his stardom, the child actor was **(33) ……**the most successful young star since Shirley Temple.

As an adult, Culkin hasn't seen his career **(34) …….** The actor appeared in movies like "Richie Rich" and then moved into TV appearances on shows like "Will and Grace", but it was far from his success as a child.

Culkin's last big-screen effort was the well-received 2004 comedy "Saved," with Mandy Moore. The star also won a **(35) ……**for his role as a murderous club kid in 2003's "Party Monster."

With his having experienced so much success as a kid, perhaps a bumpy transition is no surprise. The actor grabbed the **(36) ……**in the past for his childhood friendship with the **(37) …….** Michael Jackson, whom he defended during the singer's trial. Culkin had slept over at the pop icon's home many times, and he called charges against the megastar "absolutely ridiculous."

As a kid, Culkin successfully "divorced" his parents, whom he accused **(38) ……** mismanaging his funds, assigning instead a family accountant to take charge of his fortune until he turned 18. In 1998, he married fellow child star Rachel Miner. The two divorced four years later. In 2004, Culkin was arrested for marijuana possession and for possessing pills for which he had no **(39) …….** He was given a one-year deferred substance sentence on each charge and ordered to pay $540.

A representative for the star **(40) ……**Entertainment Tonight: "Macaulay Culkin is in perfectly good health." So perhaps the look is to mourn his latest lost love: Last year, the 31-year-old broke off a longtime romance with Mila Kunis after a reported eight-year relationship. A publicist for the actress released a statement saying, "The split was amicable, and they remain close friends."

Fans will be watching for the New Yorker's next move and movie.

31. A) done	**B)** made	**C)** snapped	**D)** produced
32. A) for	**B)** to	**C)** by	**D)** upon
33. A) looked	**B)** considered	**C)** referred	**D)** told
34. A) make off	**B)** see off	**C)** run off	**D)** take off
35. A) praise	**B)** price	**C)** reward	**D)** award
36. A) headlines	**B)** headings	**C)** titles	**D)** lines
37. A) later	**B)** late	**C)** belated	**D)** latest
38. A) for	**B)** with	**C)** of	**D)** about
39. A) recipe	**B)** prescription	**C)** subscription	**D)** receipt
40. A) ensured	**B)** said	**C)** announced	**D)** assured

41. The City Council should……funds to restore the old library.

A) rise **B)** raise **C)** make **D)** exploit

42. He used to live in a small village on the west……. of Scotland.

A) beach **B)** bank **C)** coast **D)** seaside

43. Jenny has always been very ……..of her grandparents.

A) attached **B)** close **C)** adorable **D)** fond

44. Given its critical situation, the industry of the country is heavily reliant…….foreign capital.

A) of **B)** for **C)** to **D)** on

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45. Vivien made a(n) ……effort to be friendly, but Jack failed to understand it.
A) conscious **B)** conscientious **C)** difficult **D)** aware

Section Two: Sentence Completion
Directions: *For each of the sentences below, choose the letter A, B, C or D of the word or phrase that best completes its meaning, marking your answers on your answer sheet.*

46. 'It's been snowing heavily all over Europe this winter.' – 'Oh, _____?'
A) hasn't it **B)** has it **C)** isn't it **D)** is it

47. There was an uneasy silence and _____ of us _____ break it.
A) both … wouldn't **B)** no one … would
C) neither … would **D)** either … wouldn't

48. One _____ be a genius to figure out that extensive agriculture is no longer profitable.
A) mustn't **B)** don't need **C)** shouldn't **D)** needn't

49. We will start preparing for the expedition as soon as the money _____.
A) has been raised **B)** have been raised
C) will be raised **D)** are raised

50. Now that I come to think of it, his suggestion sounds _____.
A) fair well **B)** fairly well **C)** fair good **D)** fairly good

Section Three: Sentence Transformations
Directions: *On your sheet for open-ended answers complete the second sentence so that it is as close as possible in meaning to the first one.*

51. Jessica started eating first and finished last.
Jessica was the _____ but the _____ .

52. People believe that Norma is living in Paris.
Norma _____.

53. I began to use a computer when I was seven.
I _____ since I was seven.

54. I' m sure they have been walking in the rain – their clothes are wet.
They _____ in the rain – their clothes are wet. *(use a modal verb)*

55. It makes no difference how generous she is, nobody likes her.
In spite _____, nobody likes her.

56. We should leave now.
It's time _____.

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57. "Did you remember to bring the money for the trip?" the teacher asked.
The teacher asked us _____.

58. Someone broke Harry's nose in a fight.
Harry's nose _____.

59. It's such a pity that only a few people turned up for the lecture.
I wish _____ for the lecture.

60. Your winter coat is too small to wear this winter.
Your winter coat is not _____.

PART FOUR: WRITING

Directions: *On your sheet for open-ended answers write a composition in standard English of about 160 -170 words on **ONE** of the following topics, marking the topic you have chosen on the sheet:*

1. The concert I shall never go to. Why – is it because of the musicians performing or because of the type of music? What is it that you most dislike about the musicians or the musical style? What are your preferences in music? State your reasons.

2. Tell about the most ridiculous sport or competition you have read or heard about. What is it like? What makes it ridiculous? What kind of people generally practise it?

*Mind that in case of indecent language, plagiarism, identical texts or if your composition is under 80 words or totally irrelevant to the chosen topic it will get **0** points.*

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