

IFL STYLED-ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 12

SECTION C: READING

A: For questions 1 to 5, choose the best ending for each short passage below. Write A, B C or D on the answer sheet.

(1) People who have never been in an aeroplane usually think that flying must be fun. Perhaps it is, the first time you fly. But few people who have flown a lot really enjoy flying. Most of the time you are in the air, there is nothing to see but clouds, and waiting around in an airport is the most boring experience.

- A Flying is not as interesting as people who haven't flown think.
- B A lot of people won't fly because they think it is dangerous.
- C Airports are very boring places.
- D Travelling by air is one of the least popular ways of travelling.
- E Everybody likes flying, and shopping at airports is great fun.

(2) During recent years, there has been a great increase in population. As a result of this, many countries are facing serious difficulties. These include food shortages, housing problems, unemployment, pollution and similar social and economic difficulties.

- A Some countries have more social and economic problems than others.
- B The rapid growth in population has caused very many problems.
- C The increase in population has been to the benefit of some countries.
- D Rich countries should help poor countries.
- E Economic problems are not related to the increase in population

(3) Paul is pleased that his company is sending him to the new factory near Houston. The pay will be better and the work more interesting. Also, several of his friends live there and he likes the climate.

- A Paul's company has many reasons for opening a new factory in Houston.
- B Paul is happy to be going to Houston for various reasons.
- C Paul is looking forward to making new friends in Houston.
- D It is not easy to find interesting, well-paid work in Houston.
- E Paul has never had such a good job as his present one in Houston

(4) Susan arrived at the library a few minutes before 12 o'clock. Jane had her coat on and was, waiting for her friend on the steps of the library. So they left together, crossed the street and went to their favourite restaurant.

- A Susan and Jane both work in the same library and always have lunch together.
- B Jane was surprised to see Susan at the library and invited her to lunch.
- C Susan and Jane met at the library as arranged and then had lunch together.
- D Jane and Susan have lunch together once a week.
- E Jane put on her coat while she was waiting for her friend.

(5) I don't know any French myself, and so I don't know whether Jane's French is good or not. But I do know that she has spent the last two years in France. She was in Paris for 18 months and the remaining 6 months she spent at various places along the south coast. So she should know French well.

- A Jane has spent two whole years in France, partly in Paris, partly on the south coast.
- B Jane's French ought to be good as she has recently spent two years in France.

- C If I had spent two years in France like Jane, I would have learned French well.
D Jane's French is now very good indeed.
E Jane thoroughly enjoyed the two years she spent in France, but I don't think her French is better than mine.

1.

B: For questions 1-7, read the passage below. The following reading passage has seven sections, A-G. Choose the correct heading for each section from the list of headings below. Write the correct number, i-x, on lines 1-7 on your answer sheet. There are more headings than sections, so you will not use them all.

The Great Fire of London

Paragraph A

The Great Fire of London swept through London in September 1666, devastating many buildings, including 13,200 houses and 87 parish churches. The Royal Exchange, the Guildhall and St. Paul's Cathedral, all built during the Middle Ages, were also all totally destroyed. Although the verified death toll was only six people, it is unknown how many people died in the Great Fire of London, because many more died through indirect causes. The financial losses caused by the fire were estimated to be £10 million, at a time when London's annual income was only £12,000. Many people were financially ruined and debtors' prisons became over-crowded.

Paragraph B

The Great Fire of London started on Sunday, 2 September 1666 in a baker's shop in Pudding Lane, belonging to Thomas Farynor. Although he claimed to have extinguished the fire, three hours later, at 1 a.m., his house was a blazing inferno. It is not certain how the fire actually began, but it is likely that it may have been caused by a spark from Farynor's oven falling onto a pile of fuel nearby. In 1979, archaeologists excavated the remains of a burnt out shop on Pudding Lane that was very close to the bakery where the fire started. In the cellar, they found the charred remnants of 20 barrels of pitch. Pitch burns very easily and would have helped to spread the fire.

Paragraph C

The fire spread quickly down Pudding Lane and carried on down Fish Hill and towards the Thames. The fire continued to spread rapidly, helped by a strong wind from the east. When it reached the Thames, it hit warehouses that were stocked with combustible products, such as oil and rope. Fortunately, the fire could not spread south of the river, because a previous blaze in 1633 had already wrecked a section of London Bridge. As the fire was spreading so quickly, most Londoners concentrated on escaping rather than fighting the fire.

Paragraph D

In the 17th century, people were not as aware of the dangers of fire as they are today. Buildings were made of timber covered in pitch and tightly packed together. The design of buildings meant flames could easily spread from building to building. Following a

long, dry summer, the city was suffering a drought; water was scarce and the wooden houses had dried out, making them easier to burn.

Paragraph E

Samuel Pepys, a diarist of the period and Clerk to the Royal Navy, observed the fire and recommended to the King that buildings should be pulled down, as it could be the only way to stop the fire. The Mayor made the order to pull down burning houses using fire hooks, but the fire continued to spread. Pepys then spoke to the Admiral of the Navy and they agreed that they should blow up houses in the path of the fire. The hope was that by doing this, they would create a space to stop the fire spreading from house to house. The Navy carried out the request and by the next morning, the fire has been successfully stopped.

Paragraph F

London had to be almost totally reconstructed and many people went to the fields outside London. They stayed there for many days, sheltering in tents and shacks and some people were forced to live in this way for months and even years. Throughout 1667, people cleared rubble and surveyed the burnt area. Much time was spent planning new street layouts and drawing up new building regulations. Public buildings were paid for with money from a new coal tax, but by the end of the year, only 150 new houses had been built. The new regulations were designed to prevent such a disaster happening again. Houses now had to be faced in brick instead of wood. Some streets were widened and two new streets were created. Pavements and new sewers were laid, and London's quaysides were improved. Initially, however, only temporary buildings were erected that were ill-equipped, and this enabled the plague, which was common in London at that time, to spread easily. Many people died from this and the harsh winter that followed the fire.

Paragraph G

In 1666, there was no organised fire brigade. Fire fighting was very basic with little skill or knowledge involved. Leather buckets, axes and water squirts were used to fight the fire, but they had little effect. As a result of the Great Fire of London, early fire brigades were formed by insurance companies. Building insurance was very profitable and many more insurance companies were set up, establishing their own fire brigades. These brigades were sent to insured properties if a fire occurred to minimise damage and cost. Firemarks were used to identify – and advertise – different insurance companies. They were placed on the outside of an insured building and brigades would use them to determine whether a building was insured by them. If a building was on fire, several brigades would attend. If they did not see their specific firemark attached to the building, they would leave the property to burn. Some old firemarks can still be seen on London buildings today. Also, fire fighters wore brightly coloured uniforms to distinguish themselves from rival insurance brigades. Although this was a step in the right direction, fire fighters received little training and the equipment used remained very basic.

Glossary

Pitch – A thick liquid made from petroleum or coal tar.

- i Vulnerable Buildings
- ii The Effect on Trade
- iii How it Started
- iv A Positive from the Ashes
- v Food Shortages
- vi The Movement of the Fire
- vii The Effects of the Smoke
- viii Extinguishing the Fire
- ix The Costs
- x A New London

C: For questions 1-10, read the passage below. Next, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

The word laser was coined as an acronym for Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation. Ordinary light, from the Sun or a light bulb, is emitted spontaneously, when atoms or molecules get rid of excess energy by themselves, without any outside intervention. Stimulated emission is different because it occurs when an atom or molecule holding onto excess energy has been stimulated to emit it as light.

Albert Einstein was the first to suggest the existence of stimulated emission in a paper published in 1917. However, for many years physicists thought that atoms and molecules always were much more likely to emit light spontaneously and that stimulated emission thus always would be much weaker. It was not until after the Second World War that physicists began trying to make stimulated emission dominate. They sought ways by which one atom or molecule could stimulate many others to emit light, amplifying it to much higher powers.

The first to succeed was Charles H. Towns, then at Columbia University in New York. Instead of working with light, however, he worked with microwaves, which have a much longer wavelength, and built a device he called a "maser" for Microwave Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation. Although he thought of the key idea in 1951, the first maser was not completed until a couple of years later. Before long, many other physicists were building masers and trying to discover how to produce stimulated emission at even shorter wavelengths.

The key concepts emerged about 1957. Townes and Arthur Schawlow, then at Bell Telephone Laboratories, wrote a long paper outlining the conditions needed to amplify stimulated emission of visible light waves. At about the same time, similar ideas crystallized in the mind of Gordon Gould, then a 37-year-old graduate student at Columbia, who wrote them down in a series of notebooks. Towns and Schawlow published their ideas in a scientific journal, Physical Review Letter, but Gould filed a patent application. Three decades later, people still argue about who deserves the credit for the concept of the laser.

1. The word "coined" in line 1 could best be replaced by
 - (A) created
 - (B) mentioned
 - (C) understood
 - (D) discovered

2. The word "intervention" in line 4 can best be replaced by
(A) need
(B) device
(C) influence
(D) source
3. The word "it" in line 5 refers to
(A) light bulb
(B) energy
(C) molecule
(D) atom
4. Which of the following statements best describes a laser?
(A) A device for stimulating atoms and molecules to emit light
(B) An atom in a high-energy state
(C) A technique for destroying atoms or molecules
(D) An instrument for measuring light waves
5. Why was Town's early work with stimulated emission done with microwaves?
(A) He was not concerned with light amplification.
(B) It was easier to work with longer wavelengths.
(C) His partner Schawlow had already begun work on the laser.
(D) The laser had already been developed.
6. In his research at Columbia University, Charles Townes worked with all of the following EXCEPT
(A) stimulated emission
(B) microwaves
(C) light amplification
(D) a maser
7. In approximately what year was the first maser built?
(A) 1917
(B) 1951
(C) 1953
(D) 1957
8. The word "emerged" in line 20 is closest in meaning to
(A) increased
(B) concluded
(C) succeeded
(D) appeared
9. The word "outlining" in line 21 is closest in meaning to
(A) assigning (B) studying
(C) checking (D) summarizing
10. Why do people still argue about who deserves the credit for the concept of the laser?
(A) The researcher's notebooks were lost.
(B) Several people were developing the idea at the same time.
(C) No one claimed credit for the development until recently.
(D) The work is still incomplete.