

LESSON 1

Dạng so sánh 2 thứ A và B trên phương diện C.

Trả lời True/False/Not Given.

1. Japan imports more meat and steel than France.

Passage:

At the turn of the 20th century, agriculture and manufacturing were the two most important sectors almost everywhere, accounting for about 70% of total output in Germany, Italy and France, and 40-50% in America, Britain and Japan. International commerce was therefore dominated by raw materials, such as wheat, wood and iron ore, or processed commodities such as meat and steel.

2. In experiments, rats who ate what they wanted led shorter lives than rats on a low-calorie diet.

Passage:

Scientists first recognized the value of the practice more than 60 years ago, when they found that rats fed a low-calorie diet lived longer on average than free-feeding rats and also had a reduced incidence of conditions that become increasingly common in old age.

3. There is a wider range of achievement amongst English pupils studying maths than amongst their Japanese counterparts.

Passage:

Large sample international comparisons of pupils' attainments in maths since the 1960s have established that not only did Japanese pupils at age 13 have better scores of average attainment, but there was also a larger proportion of 'low' attainers in England, where, incidentally, the variation in attainment scores was much greater.

4. Private schools in Japan are more modern and spacious than state-run lower secondary schools.

Passage:

Lower secondary schools in Japan cover three school years, from the seventh grade (age 13) to the ninth grade (age 15). Virtually all pupils at this stage attend state schools: only 3 per cent are in the private sector. Schools are usually modern in design, set well back from the road and spacious inside.

5. International trade is increasing at a greater rate than the world economy.

Passage:

International trade is growing at a startling pace. While the global economy has been expanding at a bit over 3% a year, the volume of trade has been rising at a compound annual rate of about twice that.

6. People feel more strongly about language education than about small differences in language usage.

Passage:

Arguments can start as easily over minor points of usage as over major policies of linguistic education.

7. It is easier to manage a small business than a large business.

Passage:

For example, if the job is running a small business or an autonomous unit within a larger business, high achievers should be sought. However, if the job to be filled is a managerial post in a large bureaucratic organisation, a candidate who has a high need for power and a low need for affiliation should be selected.

8. Computers are better than humans at detecting faults.

Passage:

Inspection technology allows more than 100 million measurements a second to be made across the ribbon, locating flaws the unaided eye would be unable to see.

9. In 1970s, illiterate women had approximately the same levels of infant mortality as those who had learnt to read in primary school.

Passage:

In the late 1970s, the infant mortality rate for the children of illiterate mothers was around 110 deaths per thousand live births. At this point in their lives, those mothers who later went on to learn to read had a similar level of child mortality (105/1000). For women educated in primary school, however, the infant mortality rate was significantly lower, at 80 per thousand.

10. People who talk less often have clearer ideas than those who talk a lot.

Passage:

Consequently, people who do not talk very easily may be incorrectly understood as being less agreeable than those who have no difficulty keeping up a conversation.

11. A shrinking organisation tends to lose its less skilled employees rather than its more skilled employees.

Passage:

When an organisation is shrinking, the best and most mobile workers are prone to leave voluntarily. Unfortunately, they are the ones the organisation can least afford to lose - those with the highest skills and experience. The minor employees remain because their job options are limited.

LESSON 2

Ví dụ:

1. Several species of wildlife in the British countryside are declining.

Passage:

In Britain, for example, many of our best-loved farmland birds, such as the skylark, the grey partridge, the lapwing and the corn bunting, have vanished from huge stretches of countryside, as have even more wild flowers and insects.

2. Prior to the start of MIRTP the Makete district was almost inaccessible during the rainy season.

Passage:

When the project began, Makete District was virtually totally isolated during the rainy season.

3. Our ability to deal with a lot of input material has improved over time.

Passage:

However, the fact that we are accustomed to processing large amounts of information does not mean that we are better at it.

4. The trees from which quinine is derived grow only in South America.

Passage:

At the time, quinine was the only viable medical treatment for malaria. The drug is derived from the bark of the cinchona tree, native to South America.

5. It is always difficult to determine where an animal lived when its fossilised remains are incomplete.

Passage:

You might wonder how we can tell whether fossil animals lived on land or in water, especially if only fragments are found. Sometimes it's obvious.

6. Alien civilisations may be able to help the human race to overcome serious problems.

Passage:

It is even possible that the alien civilisation may pass on the benefits of their experience in dealing with threats to survival such as nuclear war and global pollution, and other threats that we haven't yet discovered.

7. Iconoclasts are unusually receptive to new experiences.

Passage:

Observation of iconoclasts shows that they embrace novelty while most people avoid things that are different.

8. Consumers prefer theme parks which avoid serious issues.

Passage:

Theme parks are undergoing other changes, too, as they try to present more serious social and cultural issues, and move away from fantasy. This development is a response to market forces.

9. Most countries continue to prefer to trade with nearby nations.

Passage:

Countries still trade disproportionately with their geographic neighbours.

10. The Lumiere Brothers' film about the train was one of the greatest films ever made.

Passage:

One of the Lumiere Brothers' earliest films was a 30-second piece which showed a section of a railway platform flooded with sunshine. A train appears and heads straight for the camera. And that is all that happens. Yet the Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky, one of the greatest of all film artists, described the film as a 'work of genius'.

11. The ISTP study examined public and private systems in every city of the world.

Passage:

A new study conducted for the World Bank by Murdoch University's Institute for Science and Technology Policy (ISTP) has demonstrated that public transport is more efficient than cars. The study compared the proportion of wealth poured into transport by thirty-seven cities around the world. This included both the public and private costs of building, maintaining and using a transport system.

12. Storylines were important in very early cinema.

Passage:

Cinema has also given a new lease of life for the idea of the story. When the Lumiere Brothers and other pioneers began cinema, it was by no means obvious how it would be used. All that mattered at first was the wonder of movement.

13. Marie stopped doing research for several years when her children were born.

Passage:

The births of Marie's two daughters, Irene and Eve, in 1897 and 1904 failed to interrupt her scientific work.

14. It is legitimate for drug companies to make money.

Passage:

In the end the fact remains that pharmaceutical companies have every right to make a profit and will continue to find new ways to increase sales.

15. Air Traffic Control started after the Grand Canyon crash in 1956.

Passage:

Rudimentary air traffic control (ATC) existed well before the Grand Canyon disaster.

16. Teachers mark homework in Japanese schools.

Passage:

At the beginning, the pupils put solutions to the homework on the board, then the teachers comment, correct or elaborate as necessary. Pupils mark their own homework: this is an important principle in Japanese schooling as it enables pupils to see where and why they made a mistake, so that these can be avoided in the future.

17. A number of pests are now born with an innate immunity to some pesticides.

Passage:

Because of their tremendous breeding potential and genetic diversity, many pests are known to withstand synthetic chemicals and bear offspring with a built-in resistance to pesticides.

18. Taxonomic research involves comparing members of one group of ants.

Passage:

For taxonomy, or classification, long series, from a single nest which contain all castes (workers, including majors and minors, and, if present, queens and males) are desirable, to allow the determination of variation within species.

19. In the follow-up class, the teaching activities are similar to those used in conventional classes.

Passage:

Some hours after the two-part session, there is a follow-up class at which the students are stimulated to recall the material presented. Once again the approach is indirect. The students do not focus their attention on trying to remember the vocabulary, but focus on using the language to communicate (e.g. through games or improvised dramatisations). Such methods are not unusual in language teaching.

20. The Hanshin earthquake of 1995 destroyed the pagoda at the Toji temple.

Passage:

The disastrous Hanshin earthquake in 1995 killed 6,400 people, toppled elevated highways, flattened office blocks and devastated the port area of Kobe. Yet it left the magnificent five-storey pagoda at the Toji temple in nearby Kyoto unscathed, though it levelled a number of buildings in the neighbourhood.

21. Phase I of MIRTP consisted of a survey of household expenditure on transport.

Passage:

Little was known about the transport demands of the rural households, so Phase I, between December 1985 and December 1987, focused on research. The socio-economic survey of more than 400 households in the district indicated that a household in Makete spent, on average, seven hours a day on transporting themselves and their goods, a figure which seemed extreme but which has also been obtained in surveys in other rural areas in Africa.

22. Doctors make decisions according to the symptoms that a patient describes.

Passage:

We are constantly required to process a wide range of information to make decisions. Sometimes, these decisions are trivial, such as what marmalade to buy. At other times, the stakes are higher, such as deciding which symptoms to report to the doctor.

23. Fear of public speaking is a psychological illness.

Passage:

But fear of public speaking, which everyone must do from time to time, afflicts one-third of the population. This makes it too common to be considered a mental disorder.

24. Scientists have concluded that we try to take in as much detail as possible from our surroundings.

Passage:

Drawing from change blindness research, scientists have come to the conclusion that we perceive the world in much less detail than previously thought. Rather than monitoring all of the visual details that surround us, we seem to focus our attention only on those features that are currently meaningful or important, ignoring those that are irrelevant to our current needs and goals.

25. Some ants within a colony have leadership roles.

Passage:

Ants are not intelligent by themselves. Yet as a colony, they make wise decisions. And as Gordon discovered during her research, there's no one ant making decisions or giving orders.