TEST 1

Task 1

Read the text below. For assignments (1–5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, D).

A MESSAGE TO THE STARS

Our planet Earth is one of nine planets revolving around the Sun, a fairly small and ordinary star, which lies in the outer areas of the Milky Way galaxy. There are about 250 billion stars in our galaxy and billions of galaxies in the universe. People have always rendered about the possibility of intelligent life forms on other planets. In recent years this has become serious scientific speculation. Some scientists believe that there must be large numbers of stars with planets which could support living intelligent beings. Perhaps we will never know. The nearest star is 4,3 light years away. A light year is the distance covered by light travelling at about 186,000 miles a second in one year. It would take the fastest Earth spacecraft about 40,000 years to reach the nearest star.

For a number of years radio telescopes have been trying to pick up signals from outer space, so far without success. There are, however, millions of possible radio frequencies, and there is no reason why a completely alien civilization should not use a different type of communication, such as X-rays or even a type of wave we have not yet discovered. Suppose contacts were made with beings 300 light years away. By the time we had sent our reply and received their response, the Earth would be 600 years older. It would be an interesting, but rather slow-moving conversation!

1. The nearest star is ....
   A 4,3 light years away **B** 1,5 light years away
   C 2 light years away **D** 10 light years away
2. There are about ... in our galaxy.
   A 100 billion stars **B** 200 billion stars
   C 250 billion stars **D** 10 billion stars
3. A light year is the distance covered by light travelling at about ... in one year.
   A 186,000 miles a second **B** 100,000 miles a second
   C 20,000 miles a second **D** 10,000 miles a second
4. Suppose contacts were made with beings ....
   A 100 light years away **B** 200 light years away
   C 10 light years away **D** 300 light years away
5. It would take the fastest spacecraft about ... to reach the nearest star.
   A 40,000 years **B** 10,000 years
   C 200,000 years **D** 15,000 years

Task 2

Read the texts below. Match choices (A–H) to (6–10). There are three choices you do not need to use.

AMERICANS: MYTHS, STEREOTYPES AND PARADOXES

6 _____.

When we think of Americans, we usually associate them with colourful clothes, noisy behaviour and overweight. But what are they really like? What values do they have? It is not possible to answer this question explicitly but it seems that some American characteristics are a legacy of the Puritan ideology.

7 _____.

The Puritans thought of themselves as a special people able to build 'a city upon a hill'. They considered their success and increasing prosperity a sign of God's grace and did not respect those who failed. They promoted hard work, self-reliance and believed in man's unlimited ability to make progress. Even today their ideas are still popular. The special significance of succeeding in life has come to characterize the American culture ever since.

8 _____.

American children are taught that drive, initiative and activity are the essence of life. It is believed that passivity warps the mind and that is why it is not accepted. Generally, Americans are characterized by a very practical sense and optimism. They never give up and even if they have problems, they are always trying to find some solution. Their recipe is simple: You have no money? No job? Don't wait! Do something! Be flexible! There is always a way out! Take a course in gardening, cooking, ceramics, embroidering, typing... Promote yourself! You must find some way to achieve success! If you don't, you are a muff and a crock.

9 _____.

Americans see their country as a vast continent of unlimited possibilities, the Promised Land where everyone has a chance to become perfect and successful. Success means money, hence Americans seem to be preoccupied

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with the thought of how to make money. Many of them still believe in the myth 'from rags to riches'. However, not everyone becomes a millionaire in the richest country in the world. The vast majority of Americans have their own house, a good car and a well-paid job. The less fortunate ones rent a sleazy apartment and live on unemployment benefits. It is also commonly accepted that in that country of welfare there are some people living in cardboard boxes, sleeping on the pavement and carrying their belongings in plastic bags.

10 _____.

Another American obsession, apart from money, is being fit and healthy. Illnesses make life complicated, hence Americans put a lot of effort into prevention. They regularly see specialists, take tons of vitamins, minerals and pills, practise sports (especially jogging), and keep a healthy, low-fat diet. Paradoxically, there are more overweight people in the States than anywhere else. It is not surprising since they are constantly temped by calorific 'junk food' snacks, fry-ups, hot-dogs, hamburgers, pizza, chocolate bars, chips, cookies and so on.

A The Americans are people with a very practical sense and optimism.
B Puritan ideology is the ideology with strict moral principles.
C American children are taught that the care of their parents is the essence of the life.
D American characteristics are a legacy of the Puritan ideology.
E Being fit and healthy is another American obsession, apart from money.
F The Americans are usually associated with rich people and big mansions.
G Puritan ideology is the ideology without any moral principles.
H American belief in the myth 'from rags to riches'.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

Task 3

Read the text below. Match choices (A–H) to (11–16). There are two choices you do not need to use.

NEW YORK MUSEUMS AND ART CENTRES

11

The Guggenheim Museum is at Fifth Avenue and 89th Street. It specializes in modern painting, sculpture and graphic arts. The building itself is a place of modern art designed by the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

12

The Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts is the official name of what is more commonly called Lincoln Centre. It is at Broadway and 64th Street and includes the home of the New York Philharmonic Society, the New York State Theatre, a library and a school.

13

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is at 82nd Street and Fifth Avenue. It is one of the most important art museums in the world and the largest in the Western Hemisphere. It includes hundreds of world' famous masterpieces: paintings, sculptures, tapestries, musical instruments, decorative arts and costumes. Its collection includes more than two million works of art across the globe: from the first cities of the ancient world to works being created today.

14

The Radio City Music Hall Entertainment Centre is in the Rockefeller Centre. It is located from 47th to 52nd Street, west of Fifth Avenue. It is a masterpiece of art deco, special performances and spectacular revues.

15

Carnegie Hall is situated at 57th and Seventh Avenue. It is a music centre founded in 1891 by the capitalist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. It is the place where the world's greatest orchestras and soloists play.

16

The Museum of Modern Art is situated at 11th W 53rd Street. It exhibits modern paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, and architecture, photography, film, industrial and graphic design dating from the 1880s to the present day.

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Which of the art centres and museums is associated with _____?

A the works of art across the whole globe
B a masterpiece of art deco and spectacular revues
C modern painting, sculpture and graphic arts
D business and entertainment
E classical and popular music concerts
F playhouses, hotels and shops
G performing arts
H extraordinary exhibitions and collection of modern and contemporary art

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								

Task 4

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one which best fits each space (17–22). There are two choices you do not need to use.

TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

We were driving in a car from Switzerland toward the beautiful old Italian city of Verona. Just outside the city we met two boys, who were selling strawberries.

My friend spoke to the boys and found out that they were brothers. Nicolo, was 13, Jacopo, the smaller one, was almost 12. We bought their strawberries and continued (17) _____.

The next morning we saw the two boys again near our hotel in Verona. They were shining the shoes of the men (18) _____. They were very busy, but they said 'hello' to us in a friendly way.

'I thought you sold strawberries,' I said. 'We do many things, sir,' Nicolo answered seriously.

In the week (19) _____ we saw Nicolo and Jacopo several times. These two brothers worked all day under the hot sun, shining shoes, selling fruit and newspapers. They always looked very busy.

One morning while Nicolo was shining my shoes I said: 'You and Jacopo work very hard. Tell me, how do you spend your money?'

'We have plans, sir', the boys said. As we were soon leaving Verona we wanted to do (20) _____ for the boys who were friendly to us.

'Well,' I said, 'can we do anything for you before we go?'

'Every Sunday we go to a village not far from Verona,' Nicolo began. 'We usually go by bus; but tomorrow, sir, may be you will take us in your car.'

On Sunday I took the boys to the village. I stopped my car where the boys asked. It was a lovely big house. The boys promised not to be long and entered the building. I waited a few minutes and then I followed the boys.

'Excuse me,' I said to a nurse who came to the door, 'I just brought two small boys here.'

'Ah, yes,' she said with a smile. 'Nicolo and Jacopo came to visit their sister. They are alone in the world, except for their sister. Their mother and father died before the war. When the fascists came to Verona the boys began to carry (21) _____ to the mountains. When the war ended they found their sister sick with tuberculosis. They brought her to our hospital. And every week the boys come to pay for their sister.'

I thanked the nurse and waited outside. Soon the boys came back to the car. They sat (22) _____, looking serious and proud, these two gentlemen of Verona.

A which followed
B died after the war
C who passed by
D something pleasant
E secret messages in their shoes
F beside me
G not far from Switzerland
H our way to Verona

Task 5

Read and complete the text below. For each of the empty space (23–32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

MR. SELLYER IS SELLING BOOKS

One day I (23) _____ to a bookshop to look through new books. Mr. Sellyer showed me to the back of the shop where I could find some interesting books. While I was looking (24) _____ the books, I could watch Mr. Sellyer at work and see some of his methods.

A fashionably dressed woman was standing at the corner and Mr. Sellyer was showing a book to her.

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'You are quite sure it's the (25) _____?' the lady was saying to Mr. Sellyer. 'Oh, yes, Mrs. Rassel', answered the manager. 'This is Mr. Slush's latest book. It's having a wonderful sale.'

I looked at the title, the name of the book was *Golden Dreams*.

Another lady (26) _____ the bookshop. She was in deep mourning and looked (27) _____ a widow. She asked the manager to show her some new books, something new in fiction. 'Yes, Madam, here's a charming thing *Golden Dreams*. The critics say that it's one of the (28) _____ things, written by this author'.

'Is it a good book?' asked the lady.

'A charming one', said the manager. 'It's a love story — very simple and sweet and wonderfully charming. My wife was reading it aloud only last night. She was crying all the time while she was reading it.'

The lady bought *Golden Dreams* and (29) _____ the shop.

'Have you (30) _____ good light reading for vacation time?' asked the next lady. 'Yes', said Mr. Sellyer. '*Golden Dreams* is the most humorous book of the (31) _____. My wife was reading it aloud only yesterday. She was laughing all the time while she was reading it.'

The lady paid (32) _____ the book and went out.

So every customer who entered the shop went away with *Golden Dreams*. To one lady the manager sold *Golden Dreams* as the reading for a holiday, to another as the book to read after the holiday, another bought it to read on a rainy day and the fourth as the right book for a fine day.

When I was leaving the bookshop, I went up to the manager and asked him, 'Do you like the book yourself?'

'Dear me!' said the manager. 'I've no idea of the book. I've no time to read every book. I'm selling.' 'And did your wife really like the book?' 'I am not married, Sir', answered the manager smiling.

23	**A** came	**B** walked	**C** went	**D** left
24	**A** after	**B** through	**C** for	**D** over
25	**A** latest	**B** later	**C** late	**D** lately
26	**A** went	**B** arrived	**C** came	**D** entered
27	**A** as	**B** like	**C** such	**D** so
28	**A** sweetest	**B** sweet	**C** sweeter	**D** sweeten
29	**A** went	**B** left	**C** moved	**D** departed
30	**A** every	**B** some	**C** any	**D** no
31	**A** time	**B** period	**C** interval	**D** season
32	**A** for	**B** to	**C** out	**D** off

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