Practice Test 1

Cloze

Passage 1

This passage is about the early history of chess.

Chess is certainly one of the oldest games in the world, and perhaps also the most widespread. No matter where you go, it is __(91)__ that you will be able to find someone living there who plays, or at least knows __(92)__, chess. But the __(93)__ of chess remain shrouded in mystery, and various writers have __(94)__ the invention of the game to virtually every one of the great early civilizations.

A careful __(95)__ at the competing claims, however, reveals that India at around 550 A.D. may in fact be the strongest __(96)__. A Persian poem written in 600 A.D. declares that chess came to Persia from India, and before 550 A.D. there are no specific references to the __(97)__ in any literature whatsoever.

In India, chess was called *chaturanga*, meaning "four parts." The name __(98)__ to the four army divisions which were standard at the time: foot soldiers, cavalry, chariots, and elephants. Such terminology confirms __(99)__ all doubt that chess was __(100)__ an abstract representation of war from the outset. Over the following centuries, like a true conqueror, chess spread across the globe, becoming ever more popular even as earthly empires rose and fell.

91. **a.** probably **b.** likely **c.** surely **d.** undoubtedly

92. **a.** how **b.** of **c.** that **d.** about

93. **a.** beginners **b.** births **c.** initials **d.** origins

94. **a.** attributed **b.** explained **c.** claimed **d.** reported

95. **a.** study **b.** look **c.** examination **d.** consideration

96. **a.** applicant **b.** player **c.** candidate **d.** inventor

97. **a.** game **b.** country **c.** poem **d.** Persians

98. **a.** describes **b.** responds **c.** refers **d.** equals

99. **a.** above **b.** beyond **c.** without **d.** in

100. **a.** designed **b.** considered **c.** thought **d.** known

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Cloze

Passage 2

This passage is about interesting research related to Alzheimer's disease.

The estimated four million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's disease may someday get help from two novel treatments: a nasal spray and a common ingredient of Indian food. Both seem to prevent the sticky accumulations of a brain protein that ultimately __(101)__ to nerve degeneration and memory loss.

Researchers have developed a vaccine to stop the damaging protein, beta-amyloid, __(102)__ piling up as plaque in the brain. The vaccine, __(103)__ sprayed into the nose, instructs the immune system to produce antibodies __(104)__ attach to the rogue proteins and neutralize them. When the researchers tested the vaccine on mice that had __(105)__ genetically altered to simulate the onset of Alzheimer's, the rate of plaque formation __(106)__ by 75 percent.

It may be years before a nasal vaccine passes through clinical trials, __(107)__ another study points to a more immediate, and appetizing, potential therapy. A second group of researchers found __(108)__ diets rich in curcumin, a compound in the curry spice turmeric, reduced the accumulations of beta-amyloid protein in rat brains. Rats __(109)__ with curcumin also performed __(110)__ on memory-dependent maze tests than rats on normal diets. The finding may explain why in India, where foods are loaded with turmeric, just 10 percent of people over 65 contract Alzheimer's – the lowest incidence of the disease worldwide.

101. **a.** lead **b.** due **c.** has **d.** result

102. **a.** when **b.** which **c.** that **d.** from

103. **a.** which **b.** when **c.** was **d.** that

104. **a.** and **b.** to **c.** that **d.** or

105. **a.** to **b.** them **c.** undergone **d.** been

106. **a.** plunged **b.** down **c.** rose **d.** falling

107. **a.** but **b.** while **c.** because **d.** so

108. **a.** their **b.** when **c.** which **d.** that

109. **a.** cured **b.** healed **c.** treated **d.** dealing

110. **a.** well **b.** better **c.** worse **d.** less

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Passage 1

This passage is about the early history of Las Vegas.

Almost everyone has heard of Las Vegas, Nevada. __(91)__ as famous as the town is, few people know __(92)__ at all about the town's early history.

The Las Vegas Valley was __(93)__ in December 1829 by Rafael Rivera, a Mexican scout who was looking for a new trade route __(94)__ Santa Fe and Los Angeles. The __(95)__ importance was immediately appreciated, and __(96)__ became one of the critical links in the "Old Spanish Trail," which was used __(97)__ by pioneers and traders until 1849. In 1905, a railroad company founded the town of Las Vegas, __(98)__ was used first as a kind of supply base for railroad workers and then, from 1931–1935, as a place to __(99)__ builders who were __(100)__ on the nearby Hoover Dam. Meanwhile, in 1930, the Nevada state legislature passed a bill that made gambling legal in Nevada. In subsequent years, people began pouring into the state to try their luck.

91. **a.** Despite **b.** But **c.** Just **d.** Now

92. **a.** that **b.** it **c.** if **d.** anything

93. **a.** invented **b.** conceived **c.** discovered **d.** built

94. **a.** between **b.** over **c.** for **d.** from

95. **a.** scout's **b.** town's **c.** trade's **d.** valley's

96. **a.** he **b.** they **c.** it **d.** had

97. **a.** extremely **b.** expansively **c.** extensively **d.** excessively

98. **a.** but **b.** which **c.** where **d.** it

99. **a.** store **b.** house **c.** occupy **d.** reside

100. **a.** working **b.** building **c.** employing **d.** living

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Passage 2

This passage is about global warming.

Despite the wealth of information campaigns telling people about global warning and its causes, most people have yet to realize how severe the problem is. Coming climate changes could alter as __(101)__ as one third of plant and animal habitats __(102)__ the end of the 22nd century. These changes could in __(103)__ cause widespread extinctions among plant and animal __(104)__ around the globe.

Coastal and island habitats are perhaps in the greatest danger __(105)__ they face the combined threats of warming oceans and rising sea __(106)__ . As habitats change, many animals will come __(107)__ intense pressure to find more suitable homes for themselves. Mass __(108)__ of at least some animals are certainly to be expected, but the fact remains that many animals will simply not be able to move fast enough.

Such dire predictions may sound alarmist, but they are based on the rather moderate estimate that the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will double by 2100. Many scientists believe, however, that this figure is actually very __(109)__ , and they claim that a tripling is far more realistic. If they are __(110)__ , the effects on nature will be even more dramatic.

101. **a.** well **b.** much **c.** long **d.** far

102. **a.** at **b.** until **c.** by **d.** since

103. **a.** turn **b.** order **c.** result **d.** line

104. **a.** types **b.** categories **c.** genres **d.** species

105. **a.** although **b.** providing **c.** since **d.** therefore

106. **a.** heights **b.** levels **c.** altitudes **d.** tides

107. **a.** from **b.** across **c.** under **d.** by

108. **a.** migrations **b.** immigration **c.** emigration **d.** extinctions

109. **a.** conservative **b.** overestimated **c.** underscored **d.** inaccurate

110. **a.** unfortunate **b.** perceptive **c.** erroneous **d.** correct

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Passage 1

This passage is about the history of chocolate.

Somehow, more than two thousand years ago, ancient humans in Mesoamerica* figured out the secret of cacao beans. If you scoop them from the pod with their pulp, let them ferment and dry in the sun, then roast them over a gentle fire, __(91)__ extraordinary happens. They become chocolaty. And if you then grind and press the beans, you __(92)__ a rich, crumbly, chocolate-brown paste: chocolate in its most pure and simple __(93)__ . The Mayas and Aztecs revered this chocolate, __(94)__ they combined with water and spices to create tasty concoctions. Long after Spanish explorers __(95)__ the beverage to Europe in the 16th century, chocolate retained an __(96)__ of aristocratic luxury.

In the last two hundred years, an eye blink in chocolate's history, the bean has been totally democratized, __(97)__ from an elitist drink into familiar candy bars, cocoa powders, candies, and baked goods. Indeed, chocolate is becoming __(98)__ more popular worldwide, with new markets opening up in Eastern Europe and Asia. But that's both good __(99)__ and bad. While farmers are producing record numbers of cacao beans, some experts believe that that's just not enough to keep pace with global __(100)__ . What's worse is that cacao faces not only dwindling habitats but also the threat of devastating diseases. Has chocolate become a victim of its own success? Is it in trouble?

* **Mesoamerica** – (from Latin, meaning "Middle America") historical term used for the geographical and cultural area extending from central Mexico down through Central America. The area was home to important pre-Columbian civilizations such as the Olmecs, Zapotecs, Teotihuacanos, Mayas, and Aztecs.

91. **a.** and **b.** then **c.** something **d.** an

92. **a.** possess **b.** obtain **c.** construct **d.** require

93. **a.** formation **b.** form **c.** format **d.** formula

94. **a.** while **b.** but **c.** so **d.** which

95. **a.** introduced **b.** revealed **c.** announced **d.** discovered

96. **a.** aroma **b.** ascent **c.** aura **d.** appreciation

97. **a.** transported **b.** transferred **c.** transformed **d.** transmitted

98. **a.** ever **b.** quite **c.** always **d.** so

99. **a.** business **b.** sense **c.** chocolate **d.** news

100. **a.** warming **b.** supply **c.** marketing **d.** demand

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Passage 2

This passage is about tigers.

Adult tigers will meet socially only during courtship, when a male and female stay together for several days. After successful mating, the tigress will __(101)__ away the male to __(102)__ the cubs by herself. Cubs are born blind after a gestation period of __(103)__ 96 and 104 days. __(104)__ their eyes open after two weeks, they do not begin to __(105)__ well until the second month. At this stage, they are most __(106)__ to predators like jackals and hyenas __(107)__ they are left alone for long periods when the tigress is away hunting. Infant mortality is __(108)__ high; a tigress __(109)__ raises more than one cub per litter successfully. She will keep her __(110)__ with her for almost two years, teaching them everything necessary to perfect their survival skills. At the end of this time, she will gently push them away so that she is free to search out a new mate and begin the breeding cycle anew.

101. **a.** run **b.** give **c.** throw **d.** drive

102. **a.** rear **b.** grow **c.** lift **d.** develop

103. **a.** from **b.** between **c.** just **d.** roughly

104. **a.** When **b.** If **c.** Although **d.** Because

105. **a.** walk **b.** eat **c.** see **d.** sleep

106. **a.** averse **b.** vulnerable **c.** subject **d.** inclined

107. **a.** and **b.** however **c.** so **d.** as

108. **a.** therefore **b.** not **c.** so **d.** too

109. **a.** seldom **b.** usually **c.** that **d.** only

110. **a.** newborn **b.** offspring **c.** descendant **d.** cub

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Cloze

Passage 1

This passage is about global warming and public health.

Warmer weather and abnormally mild winters may bode well for orange growers, but they also encourage the proliferation of mosquitoes that carry diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. The incidence of infectious diseases is already on the __(91)__ in the United States, and __(92)__ are occurring in areas previously too cold for __(93)__ to inhabit. In recent years, cases of malaria have been __(94)__ as far north as Michigan, New Jersey, and New York, and a recent study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention __(95)__ that the proliferation of disease-carrying mosquitoes __(96)__ increase the percentage of the world's population at risk from malaria from 42 percent to 60 percent.

In __(97)__, lethal heat waves, such as the 1995 event that __(98)__ over 700 people in Chicago alone, will be __(99)__ deadly consequence of global warming. As temperatures rise, major cities around the world could __(100)__ thousands of heat-related deaths annually.

91. **a.** go **b.** air **c.** way **d.** rise

92. **a.** outbursts **b.** outbreaks **c.** outcomes **d.** outgrowths

93. **a.** diseases **b.** people **c.** mosquitoes **d.** winters

94. **a.** observing **b.** reported **c.** opened **d.** suffering

95. **a.** recommends **b.** believes **c.** suggests **d.** prefers

96. **a.** to **b.** and **c.** that **d.** could

97. **a.** addition **b.** conclusion **c.** total **d.** general

98. **a.** terminated **b.** assassinated **c.** killed **d.** executed

99. **a.** more **b.** another **c.** further **d.** increasingly

100. **a.** experience **b.** cause **c.** develop **d.** produce

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Passage 2

This passage is about biotechnology.

Biotechnology in one form or another has flourished since prehistoric times. When the first human beings realized that they could plant their own crops and breed their own animals, they were acting as biotechnologists. From the moment they __(101)__ that fruit juices fermented into wine, and that milk could be __(102)__ into cheese or yogurt, and that beer could be made __(103)__ fermenting solutions of malt and hops, they began to apply the __(104)__ of biotechnology. So too did the first bakers when they found that they could make a soft, spongy bread __(105)__ than a firm, thin cracker . . . and the first animal breeders when they realized that different physical traits could be either magnified or lost by __(106)__ appropriate pairs of animals.

What then is biotechnology in the modern world? The __(107)__ brings to mind many different things. Some think of developing new types of animals. Others __(108)__ of producing almost unlimited quantities of therapeutic drugs. __(109)__ others envision the __(110)__ of growing crops that are more nutritious and naturally pest-resistant to feed a rapidly growing world population. The question elicits almost as many responses as there are people to whom the question can be posed.

101. **a.** claimed **b.** implied **c.** heard **d.** discovered

102. **a.** transferred **b.** converted **c.** exchanged **d.** reformed

103. **a.** into **b.** from **c.** by **d.** of

104. **a.** technicalities **b.** ideals **c.** principles **d.** values

105. **a.** quicker **b.** rather **c.** other **d.** more

106. **a.** mixing **b.** raising **c.** cloning **d.** mating

107. **a.** term **b.** definition **c.** condition **d.** expression

108. **a.** wonder **b.** fantasize **c.** dream **d.** imagine

109. **a.** Still **b.** Even **c.** The **d.** While

110. **a.** probability **b.** possibility **c.** capacity **d.** opportunity

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Passage 1

This passage is about frogs and our changing environment.

Because they are so sensitive to environmental changes, frogs are a sort of ecological "canary in a coal mine." In other __(91)__ , their disappearance is often the first warning sign of negative environmental effects. The rapid worldwide disappearance of many species of frogs is a serious __(92)__ that something is __(93)__ very wrong on our planet.

What __(94)__ is causing these problems in our frog populations? Researchers are still __(95)__ from finding any definitive answers. For one thing, __(96)__ are several other facts to __(97)__ into account. __(98)__ all species of amphibians are in trouble. Up until now, for instance, salamanders seemed to be doing fine __(99)__ to frogs. And some species of frogs are actually increasing in numbers __(100)__ than decreasing. This suggests that the frog crisis is not the result of a single planet-wide phenomenon. Instead, several factors have probably combined to contribute to the problem.

91. **a.** words **b.** ways **c.** times **d.** places

92. **a.** evidence **b.** problem **c.** indication **d.** symptom

93. **a.** happening **b.** going **c.** becoming **d.** turning

94. **a.** concisely **b.** inevitably **c.** approximately **d.** exactly

95. **a.** far **b.** prevented **c.** tired **d.** suffering

96. **a.** they **b.** included **c.** there **d.** missing

97. **a.** consider **b.** keep **c.** look **d.** take

98. **a.** Not **b.** And **c.** Nearly **d.** Above

99. **a.** comparing **b.** compared **c.** comparison **d.** comparable

100. **a.** more **b.** better **c.** rather **d.** other

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