

I. LISTENING (2.0 points)**PART 1. Questions 1 – 8**

You will hear someone talking about the environment. For questions 1 to 8, choose the correct answer A, B, or C. (1.0 point)

- In the text you hear, man dirties the air with _____.
A. only gases B. gases and smoke C. poisons, chemicals and other substances
- Man pollutes the water with _____.
A. gases and smoke B. plastic C. poisons, chemicals and other substances
- The fertilizers and pesticides can damage _____ according to the text.
A. soil B. air C. water
- The air is filled with disturbing noise _____.
A. by operating machines
B. by operating planes
C. by operating machines and motor vehicles
- How do people ruin natural beauty?
A. by throwing junk and littering on the land
B. by throwing junk and littering in the water
C. A&B are correct
- Illness and even death are bad results of _____.
A. air pollution B. water pollution C. soil pollution
- What is true about the text?
A. Air, water and soil are necessary to the survival of all living things.
B. Polluted water kills fish and other marine life.
C. All are correct.
- _____ also makes man's natural world be ugly.
A. air pollution B. environment pollution C. water pollution

PART 2. Questions 9 – 16

You will hear a talk on the radio about the traffic jam in Vietnam. For questions 9 to 16, complete the sentences. Write only ONE word in each gap. (1.0 point)

The Traffic Jam in Vietnam

- According to the talk, Viet Nam is the most (9) _____ place of traffic jam.
- The young people in Viet Nam don't care much about the (10) _____.
- Viet Nam is thought to be a poor developing country but it has an (11) _____ number of cars.
- Viet Nam has a huge (12) _____. This leads to the result that our infrastructure doesn't develop adequately with the growing of it.
- In order to solve this problem, the first thing is to build new roads and (13) _____ the old ones.
- One of the solutions is that we should build (14) _____ into the road such as roadside sensors, global positioning system...
- The last thing reducing traffic jam is giving the high (15) _____ on automobiles especially on the imported cars.
- According to the talk, the author's city will be better in (16) _____ years later by doing these solutions.

II. READING (2.0 points)

PART 1. You are going to read a newspaper article about desert formation. For questions 1 – 8, choose the answer A, B, C or D which you think fits best according to the text. (1.0 point)

DESERT FORMATION

The deserts, which already occupy approximately a fourth of the Earth's land surface, have in recent decades been increasing at an alarming pace. The expansion of desert-like conditions into areas where they did not previously exist is called desertification. It has been estimated that an additional one-fourth of the Earth's land surface is threatened by this process.

Desertification is accomplished primarily through the loss of stabilizing natural vegetation and the subsequent accelerated erosion of the soil by wind and water. In some cases the loose soil is blown completely away, leaving a stony surface. In other cases, the finer particles may be removed, while the sand-sized particles are accumulated to form mobile hills or ridges of sand.

Even in the areas that retain a soil cover, the reduction of vegetation typically results in the loss of the soil's ability to absorb substantial quantities of water. The impact of raindrops on the loose soil tends to transfer fine clay particles into the tiniest soil spaces, sealing them and producing a surface that allows very little water penetration. Water absorption is greatly reduced, consequently runoff is increased, resulting in accelerated erosion rates. The gradual drying of the soil caused by its diminished ability to absorb water results in the further loss of vegetation, so that a cycle of progressive surface deterioration is established.

In some regions, the increase in desert areas is occurring largely as the result of a trend toward drier climatic conditions. Continued gradual global warming has produced an increase in aridity for some areas over the past few thousand years. The process may be accelerated in subsequent decades if global warming resulting from air pollution seriously increases.

There is little doubt, however, that desertification in most areas results primarily from human activities rather than natural processes. The semiarid lands bordering the deserts exist in a *delicate* ecological balance and are limited in their potential to adjust to increased environmental pressures. Expanding populations are subjecting the land to increasing pressures to provide them with food and fuel. In wet periods, the land may be able to respond to these stresses. During the dry periods that are common phenomena along the desert margins, though, the pressure on the land is often far in excess of its diminished capacity, and desertification results.

Four specific activities have been identified as major contributors to the desertification processes: over-cultivation, overgrazing, firewood gathering, and over-irrigation. The cultivation of crops has expanded into progressively drier regions as population densities have grown. These regions are especially likely to have periods of severe dryness, so that crop failures are common. Since the raising of most crops necessitates the prior removal of the natural vegetation, crop failures leave extensive tracts of land *devoid of* a plant cover and susceptible to wind and water erosion.

The raising of livestock is a major economic activity in semiarid lands, where grasses are generally the dominant type of natural vegetation. The consequences of an excessive number of livestock grazing in an area are the reduction of the vegetation cover and the trampling and pulverization of the soil. This is usually followed by the drying of the soil and accelerated erosion.

Firewood is the chief fuel used for cooking and heating in many countries. The increased pressures of expanding populations have led to the removal of woody plants so that many cities and towns are surrounded by large areas completely lacking in trees and shrubs. The increasing use of dried animal waste as a substitute fuel has also hurt the soil because this valuable soil conditioner and source of plant nutrients is no longer being returned to the land.

The final major human cause of desertification is soil salinization resulting from over-irrigation. Excess water from irrigation sinks down into the water table. If no drainage system exists, the water table rises, bringing dissolved salts to the surface. The water evaporates and the

salts are left behind, creating a white crustal layer that prevents air and water from reaching the underlying soil.

The extreme seriousness of desertification results from the vast areas of land and the tremendous numbers of people affected, as well as from the great difficulty of reversing or even slowing the process. Once the soil has been removed by erosion, only the passage of centuries or millennia will enable new soil to form. In areas where considerable soil still remains, though, a rigorously enforced program of land protection and cover-crop planting may make it possible to reverse the present deterioration of the surface.

1. According to paragraph 3, the loss of natural vegetation has which of the following consequences for soil?
A. increased stony content B. reduced water absorption
C. increased numbers of spaces in the soil D. reduced water runoff
2. The word “*delicate*” in paragraph 5 is closest in meaning to _____.
A. fragile B. predictable C. complex D. valuable
3. According to the passage, in dry periods, border areas have difficulty _____.
A. adjusting to stresses created by settlement
B. retaining their fertility after desertification
C. providing water for irrigating crops
D. attracting populations in search of food and fuel
4. According to paragraph 6, which of the following is often associated with raising crops?
A. lack of proper irrigation techniques
B. failure to plant crops suited to the particular area
C. removal of the original vegetation
D. excessive use of dried animal waste
5. The phrase “*devoid of*” in paragraph 6 is closest in meaning to _____.
A. consisting of B. hidden by C. except for D. lacking in
6. According to the passage, the ground’s absorption of excess water is a factor in desertification because it can _____.
A. interfere with the irrigation of land B. limit the evaporation of water
C. require more absorption of air by the soil D. bring salts to the surface
7. All of the following are mentioned in the passage as contributing to desertification **EXCEPT** _____.
A. soil erosion B. global warming
C. insufficient irrigation D. the raising of livestock
8. It can be inferred from the passage that the author most likely believes which of the following about the future of desertification?
A. Governments will act quickly to control further desertification.
B. The factors influencing desertification occur in cycles and will change in the future.
C. Desertification will continue to increase.
D. Desertification will soon occur in all areas of the world.

PART 2. You are going to read a newspaper article about the bird called the kingfisher. Eight sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A – H, the one which fits each gap 9 – 16. (1.0 point)

THE KINGFISHER

Old trees overhang the stream, half shading shadow water. Soft greens, mud browns and the many different yellows of sunlight are the main colors, as soft as the sound of water in the breeze. (9) _____. It has gone in a split second, but a trace of image lingers, its power out of proportion to its size.

Charlie James fell in love with kingfishers at an early age (10) _____. After all, it is the stuff of legend. Greek myth makes the kingfisher a moon goddess who turned into a bird. Another tale tells how the kingfisher flew so high that its upper body took on the blue of the sky, while its under parts were scorched by the sun.

(11) _____. For despite the many different blues that appear in their coats, kingfishers have no blue pigment at all in their feathers. Rather, the structure of their upper feathers scatters light and strongly reflects blue.

(12) _____. It's small wonder that some wildlife photographers get so enthusiastic about them. Couple the colors with the fact that kingfishers, though shy of direct human approach, can be easy to watch from a hideout, and you have a recipe for a lifelong passion.

Charlie James's first hideout was an old blanket which he put over his head while he waited near a kingfisher's favorite spot. (13) _____ But it took another four years he reckons before he got his first decent picture. In the meantime, the European kingfisher had begun to dominate his life. He spent all the time he could by a kingfisher – rich woodland stream.

The trouble was, school cut the time available to be with the bird. So he missed lessons, becoming what he describes as an “academic failure”. (14) _____.

At 16, he was hired as an advisor for a nature magazine. Work as an assistant to the editor followed, then a gradual move to life as a freelance wildlife film cameraman. (15) _____. ‘No speech, just beautiful images which say it all,’ he says.

The sentence trails off to nothing. He's thinking of those colors of the bird he's spent more than half his life getting close to, yet which still excites interest. (16) _____. But, as Charlie knows, there's so much more to his relationship with the kingfisher than his work can ever show.

A. This is why a kingfisher may appear to change from bright blue to rich emerald green with only a slight change in the angle at which light falls on it.

B. But his interest in this, the world's most widespread kingfisher and the only member of its cosmopolitan family to breed in Europe, was getting notice.

C. A sure sign of his depth of feeling for this little bird is his inability to identify just what it is that draws him to it.

D. The bird came back within minutes and sat only a meter away.

E. The photographs succeed in communicating something of his feelings.

F. There is some scientific truth in that story.

G. The bird cuts like a laser through the scene, straight and fast, a slice of light and motion so striking you almost feel it.

H. What he'd really like to do now is make the ultimate kingfisher film.

III. USE OF ENGLISH (5.0 points)

PART 1. Choose the word or phrase A, B, C or D that best completes each sentence.

(1.0 point)

1. No one waited _____ him but he turned _____ at last.
A. for-up B. for-on C. of - off D. for- round
2. The lamp _____ in China is cheap.
A. make B. be made C. made D. being made
3. No one in her class is _____ than her.
A. taller B. tall C. the tallest D. tallest
4. If only I _____ play the guitar as well as you.
A. would B. shall C. could D. might
5. There's no need to be nervous. You're quite capable _____ your final exam.
A. of passing B. passing C. to pass D. pass
6. As she arrived at the theater, she remembered that she _____ to meet a friend somewhere else.
A. promised B. had promised C. has promised D. to promise
7. "Does Jack know about your project?" – Yes, I told him _____ to do.
A. what was I planning B. what I have planned
C. what did I plan D. what I was planning
8. If you have finished the test, you _____ the room.
A. would leave B. may leave C. may be leaving D. could leave

PART 2. Read the following passage and decide which answer A, B, C or D best fits each gap.

(1.0 point)

THE ESCALATOR

An American, Charles.D.Seeberger, invented moving stairs to transport people in the 1890s. He (1) _____ this invention "escalator", taking the name from the Latin word "scala", which means "ladder". Escalators move people up and down short (2) _____. Lifts do the same, but only move (3) _____ small number of people. If an escalator breaks down, it can still be (4) _____ as ordinary stairs. An escalator can move (5) _____ 8,000 and 9,600 people an hour, and it (6) _____ not need a person to operate it.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, cities were (7) _____ more crowded and the first escalators were built at railway stations and in big department (8) _____, so that people could move about more quickly. Today we see escalators everywhere.

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|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. A. announced | B. called | C. translated | D. explained |
| 2. A. distances | B. directions | C. measurements | D. lengths |
| 3. A. the | B. a | C. some | D. any |
| 4. A. walked | B. made | C. used | D. changed |
| 5. A. from | B. between | C. to | D. above |
| 6. A. is | B. has | C. did | D. does |
| 7. A. coming | B. becoming | C. continuing | D. developing |
| 8. A. stores | B. shops | C. places | D. houses |

PART 3. Fill each blank with ONE suitable word. (1.0 point)

THE SHOEMAKER

Bill Bird is a shoemaker who cannot make shoes fast enough for his growing number of customers – and he (1) _____ more than £300 for a pair! Customers travel hundreds of kilometers to his London shoe clinic or to his workshop in the countryside to have their feet (2) _____. He makes shoes for people with (3) _____ of unusual sizes: very large, very small, very broad or very narrow. The shoes are at least as fashionable as (4) _____ found in ordinary shops.

Mr. Bird says: “My problem is that I cannot find skilled workers. Young people all seem to prefer to work with computers these days. We will lose the necessary skills soon because there are (5) _____ and fewer shoemakers nowadays. I am 45, and now I want to teach young people everything I know about making shoes. It’s a good job, and a lot of people want to buy beautiful shoes specially (6) _____ for them.”
He started the business 19 years ago and now he (7) _____ three other people. His customers pay about £500 for their first pair of shoes. He says: “Our customers come because they want comfortable shoes which are exactly the right size”. Extra pairs of shoes cost between £320 and £450 as it takes one employee a (8) _____ week to make just one shoe.

PART 4. For questions 1 – 8, give the correct form of the words in the brackets. (1.0 point)

SAILING WAY

On Sunday morning Aunt Emily made an announcement. She told us happily that she was going to take us on a cruise! I was surprised, knowing how (1. *expense*) _____ a holiday like that could be. We weren’t a (2. *wealth*) _____ family, but we had put some money aside over the year so in the end we used some of our savings for the holiday.

When the day of our (3. *depart*) _____ finally came, we were delighted and thrilled to see how huge and (4. *luxury*) _____ the ship looked. Our cruise liner sailed elegantly out to the sea and our holiday began. But it was such a(n) (5. *disappoint*) _____!

There was so little to do on board. The (6. *bore*) _____ almost drove us mad. We visited several ports, but we didn’t have the (7. *free*) _____ to do what we wanted. We had to follow a very tight schedule of guided tours and visits to museums. It was a (8. *disaster*) _____ holiday!

PART 5 (1.0 point)

For questions 1 – 4, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do NOT change the word given.

1. It’s not worth asking the manager for the day off. **POINT**
→ There _____ the manager for the day off.

2. Our house is going to be painted by a local firm. **HAVE**
→ We are _____ by a local firm.

3. George made the same number of mistakes as Peter. **AS**
→ George _____ Peter.

4. “You broke that window, Tom” said Mr. Smith. **ACCUSED**
→ Mr. Smith _____ the window.

For questions 5 – 8, finish each of the sentences in such a way that it means exactly the same as the one printed before it.

5. Nam finds it hard to drive on the left.

→ Nam is not _____.

6. Despite the heavy snow, the explorers managed to walk to the village.

→ Although _____.

7. It was such a stale cake that the boy could not eat it.

→ The cake was not _____.

8. It's a two – hour flight from Ho Chi Minh city to Hanoi.

→ It takes _____.

IV. WRITING (1.0 points)

In about 120 – 150 words, write a PARAGRAPH answering the following question.

***“Many teachers assign homework to students every day.
Do you think that daily homework is necessary for students?”***

Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

-----**HẾT**-----

Cán bộ coi thi không giải thích gì thêm

Họ và tên thí sinh:.....Số báo danh:.....Chữ ký.....

Chữ ký cán bộ coi thi 1:.....