

CLOZE TEST III

I like traveling a lot. One of _____ (1) enjoyable holidays I have ever had in my life was _____ (2) in a coastal town in Wales. I spent those two weeks camping, canoeing and caving with a group of school friends. _____ (3) it was many years ago, I remember it most because it was the first time I _____ (4) to caving, a sport which I _____ (5) ever since. Caving is described _____ (6) "climbing-upside down". That is not a bad description because cavers use much of the same equipment and employ _____ (7) of the same techniques as mountain climbers.

We called the local caving club and asked two experienced cavers _____ (8) us. I remember _____ (9) them in a small café in the hills.

After _____ (10) ourselves, we started walking across the hills _____ (11) foot. The cave was so far from the café that on our way we had to stop twice _____ (12). In the end, we reached a hollow in the ground _____ (13) a small stream flowed away into a natural hole behind some large rocks. "Well, there it is. Let's get ready." said one of our guides. I was shocked as the hole _____ (14) at was quite narrow and we were going into that!

1.	a) more	b) the most	c) the more	d) most
2.	a) holidays of two weeks	b) a holiday in two weeks	c) a two-week holiday	d) two weeks of holiday
3.	a) However	b) Since	c) Therefore	d) Even though
4.	a) had introduced	b) introduced	c) had been introduced	d) have been introduced
5.	a) enjoyed	b) was enjoying	c) have enjoyed	d) am enjoying
6.	a) as	b) like	c) for	d) to
7.	a) much	b) none	c) many	d) any
8.	a) to guide	b) guiding	c) guide	d) to guiding
9.	a) meeting	b) to meeting	c) to meet	d) meet
10.	a) we introduce	b) introducing	c) introduced	d) we have introduced
11.	a) by	b) with	c) on	d) in
12.	a) to rest	b) resting	c) rest	d) to resting
13.	a) which	b) where	c) that	d) when
14.	a) looked	b) looking	c) we were looking	d) that was looking

PASSAGE III

Basketball

Basketball is second only to football in the league of the world's most popular sports. It's now played in 150 countries by more than 100 million people but it is still known as the sport of America as it has the strongest and the most skilful teams. The United States had won the Gold Medal at every Olympics until 1972. In that year they lost to The Soviet Union in a match which was both exciting and full of dispute. After the match both the coach and the players said that they had never had such hard times in any other match before because there were lots of arguments about the decisions during the match and the score.

The Aztecs are supposed to have played a game in the 16th century which some people believe to be the precedent of basketball. Players had to throw a solid rubber ball through a stone ring. The modern game, though, was invented in 1891 by a Canadian physical education instructor in the United States. Dr Naismith was faced with the problem of finding an indoor activity to use up the energy of students who had become fed up with gymnastics. Naismith wanted a game which could be played indoors and which emphasised skill rather than strength. Basketball was what he came up with. The original game was played by two teams of nine players and the basket was a peach basket nailed to the wall of the gymnasium. The first game was played in 1892 and the final score was 1-0. It showed that more practice was obviously necessary. But even at the first game there were 200 spectators.

There are two levels of basketball in the United States. The college game which is run by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) can attract crowds of up to 60,000 per game. The professional game run by the National Basketball Association attracts even more spectators than the college games. Competition to get into the ranks of the professionals is extremely difficult and out of the thousands college players who graduate every year, less than a hundred are chosen. The rest try their chances in the European leagues as they are very keen on having American players.

Of course, with a game as popular as basketball, the financial rewards for the top professional players are enormous. The highest paid player in American basketball is Magic Johnson who, at the age of 21, signed a 25-year contract worth \$25 million with the Los Angeles Lakers. Now Johnson has considerable power within the basketball world as well as an extremely high salary. On the day after he criticized the team coach for being traditional and claimed that his training was a real drag, the coach was fired.

Apart from the serious professional game of basketball there is the 'show-business' side, represented by perhaps the best known team, The Harlem Globetrotters. Although their main strength appears to be in comedy and entertainment, their technical skills are breathtaking. They have done more to publicise the game of basketball than anybody else. The team was founded in Chicago in 1927 by Abe Saperstein. After they had won every important title possible, they set out to take basketball to the world. The team has been watched by more than 80 million people all over the world. In 1951 it attracted the biggest ever crowd of 75,000 people.

Probably Naismith didn't think that basketball would become so popular in the following years. Another point he did not foresee when he invented basketball was the advantage that height would give to players. That was because at that time average height was much less than the average of today. It is true that some top-class players are not particularly tall. Alton Bird, for example, is only 1.73m tall but to be under 2m is generally considered to be on the short side. Even nationalities who are generally thought to be short produce tall men who do well at basketball. An instance of this is the Chinese star Mu Tuh-chu who is 2.25 m tall. The leading Japanese player is Okazama and he is 2.36m tall.

1. Basketball is widely played in many countries _____.
 a) but it's still unpopular in the Russian Republics
 b) and it's the most popular sport in the world
 c) but America is still the world leader
 d) and it has been in the Olympic Games since 1972
2. Dr Naismith invented basketball because he needed _____.
 a) something for his students to do in the open air
 b) a game which developed strength
 c) an indoor activity which demanded skill
 d) energetic students for his gymnastics classes
3. There is incredible competition between college players every year _____.
 a) to be chosen by a professional team
 b) to graduate from their schools
 c) to play in a European league
 d) to be a member of the NCAA
4. Which of the following is TRUE about The Harlem Globetrotters?
 a) They have never taken basketball seriously
 b) They have the biggest role in making basketball well-known
 c) Over 80 million people went to Chicago to watch them in 1927
 d) Harlem is their birthplace
5. When Naismith invented basketball he _____.
 a) knew that short people wouldn't play it well
 b) didn't realize the importance of height
 c) expected basketball to be a world sport
 d) chose tall students for his first team
6. In line 5 'dispute' means _____.
 a) entertainment b) coordination c) variety d) disagreement
7. In line 10 'precedent' means first _____.
 a) failure b) supporter c) winner d) example
8. In line 32 'drag' means something _____.
 a) functional b) dull c) challenging d) extraordinary
9. In line 18 'It' refers to _____.
 a) The final score b) The original game c) The peach basket d) The gymnasium
10. In line 26 'they' refers to _____.
 a) college players b) the rest c) the professionals d) the European leagues

23. When the police arrested the accountant, he claimed that he was honest and _____ stealing millions of dollars from the Central Bank's safe.
- a) convinced b) denied c) owed d) suspected
24. The director of the school decided to _____ the basketball team for their success in the championship.
- a) reward b) fit c) care d) defend
25. The young actor's first _____ on the stage was a great success, so all the critics wrote good things about him.
- a) script b) reception c) performance d) scenery
26. Since Timothy has lived there for many years, I have asked him to _____ me a safe and clean hotel in Taiwan where I can stay during my visit.
- a) recommend b) save c) receive d) reveal
27. The film festival was not as successful as _____ because the number of people who participated was quite low.
- a) engaged b) expected c) admitted d) contradicted
28. Grace has been practising dancing for years to _____ her ambition of becoming the prima ballerina of the academy.
- a) praise b) review c) survive d) achieve
29. Ken is _____ to the old woman who provided a scholarship for his education.
- a) truthful b) grateful c) thoughtful d) deceitful
30. Adrian's aggressive manner is so _____ that no one wants to spend time with him.
- a) amusing b) cunning c) irritating d) easygoing
31. Since the new general manager's courageous investments, the _____ of the company has doubled.
- a) profit b) pay c) fortune d) fee
32. It seems _____ to make 250 workers redundant because the company is having serious financial problems.
- a) temporary b) reserved c) trivial d) sensible
33. When the Jacksons first migrated to Australia, they _____ several problems but later they overcame most of them.
- a) came across b) cleared out c) got round d) carried out