SỞ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
THÀNH PHỐ HỒ CHÍ MINH

ĐỀ CHÍNH THỨC

(Đề thi gồm 04 trang)

KỲ THI TUYỂN SINH LỚP 10 NĂM HỌC 2024 - 2025
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I. USE OF ENGLISH (30 PTS)

PART A: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER TO FILL IN THE BLANK. **(10 PTS)**

1. The old lady stood in silence, the letter _____ in her fingers.
   A. was written in haste trembling B. written in haste trembling
   C. writing in haste trembled D. written in haste trembled
2. During the epidemic, numerous patients suffered symptoms that many herbalists believe _____ with a simple herbal remedy.
   A. could ease B. able to be eased C. should it be easing D. might have been eased
3. Jane: Was Karen's comedy show a success?
   George: She had them _____ in the aisles after the first five minutes!
   A. roll B. to roll C. rolled D. rolling
4. Harry: Can I help you get ready for the meeting?
   Ron: I'll set up the room if _____ copies of the report.
   A. you'll make B. you're making C. you'd have made D. you are making
5. Agatha's book _____ released last month, but there have been some delays.
   A. will have been B. will have C. was D. was to be
6. Paula: What made Gillian change her tune so drastically?
   Kim: She says _____ your book that changed her views.
   A. that was reading B. that she read C. it was reading D. that is reading
7. I have never been in any trouble with the police though I _____ a couple of times for speeding.
   A. have stopped B. have been stopped C. stop D. have been stopping
8. Corporal punishment may hurt a child's feelings. _____, they may hold a grudge against their parents.
   A. On the contrary B. For instance C. In consequence D. All the same
9. He had the ability to instantly play any new sport as though he _____ it for years.
   A. was playing B. had been playing C. would be playing D. played
10. Cosmic dust is crucial to young stars but why _____ at the universe's birth is still a mystery.
    A. was so much present B. was present so much C. so much was present D. presently so much was
11. Towards the end of his speech, the senator _____ some very harsh criticisms.
    A. came into B. turned out C. made off with D. came out with
12. The solicitor said she _____ appreciated that we were struggling but there was nothing she could do to help.
    A. fully B. greatly C. largely D. utterly
13. The strain on the healthcare system was further _____ by the ageing population.
    A. confounded B. confronted C. supplemented D. compounded
14. For someone who knows very little about art, she's very _____ with her opinions.
    A. diverse B. free C. open D. obvious
15. Having enrolled in the most demanding course, Fiona found herself _____.
    A. out of her depth B. a cold fish C. a drop in the ocean D. in the black
16. The concert was such an amazing _____ that the audience was completely stunned.
    A. spectacle B. parade C. showcase D. view
17. After hours of discussing, the board _____ the conclusion that a merger would benefit both companies.
    A. jumped in B. put down C. amounted to D. arrived at
18. The reason why that species of turtles went extinct is still _____ in mystery.
    A. clouded B. flouted C. shrouded D. slouched
19. To everyone's relief, the kids were none the _____ for their adventure.
    A. worst B. worse C. bad D. less
20. Henry: When will the celebration start?
    Will: _____!
    A. Not for the world B. At the end of the day C. Beats me D. Fair enough

PART B: CHOOSE THE WORD OR PHRASE THAT BEST FITS EACH SPACE IN THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE. **(20 PTS)**

PASSAGE 1

(1)_____ learning-based tours were offered in the decades prior, the concept of 'ecotourism' has its beginnings in the 1970s after the first global environmental movements (2)_____ concerns over the growing impacts of mass-market tourism. By most (3)_____, Héctor Ceballos-Lascuráin brought the term 'ecotourist' into mainstream use in 1983. He used it to explain why low-impact tourism activities were vital for protecting a wetland area from developers in his homeland of Mexico. From the (4)_____, conserving natural habitats was his primary objective, but also front of (5)_____ were the potential economic benefits to the region. Ceballos-Lascuráin argued that activities such as birdwatching and hiking would also generate sustainable employment opportunities and have (6)_____ benefits to the wider local economy without destroying the environment.

During the 1990s, the concept of sustainability gained (7)_____ as decision-makers infused it into every sphere of development, including tourism. In 2002 the responsible travel sector became globally accepted as a specific market when the United Nations proclaimed the International Year of Ecotourism. Since then, its (8)_____ has grown, and today, ecotourism's perceived potential as a solution for our conservation challenges as well as economic growth, particularly in regions like sub-Saharan Africa that (9)_____ the global development curve, has seen it being (10)_____ embraced and endorsed by the sustainable development lobby across most economic and conservation agendas.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1.	A. While	B. Since	C. Whatever	D. When
2.	A. uttered	B. voiced	C. proliferated	D. verbalised
3.	A. means	B. accounts	C. appearances	D. rights
4.	A. onset	B. offset	C. outset	D. reset
5.	A. mind	B. attention	C. focus	D. line
6.	A. run-off	B. spinning-off	C. knock-on	D. follow-up
7.	A. force	B. speed	C. appeal	D. traction
8.	A. status quo	B. stature	C. state	D. status
9.	A. lag	B. linger	C. dawdle	D. loiter
10.	A. rigorously	B. ferociously	C. vehemently	D. vigorously

PASSAGE 2

If you are online, you should assume that you have no privacy and act (1)_____. Every mouse click and keystroke is tracked, logged, and potentially analysed by website managers, marketers, and even hackers. To use most services, users must agree to lengthy terms and conditions that allow their data to be (2)_____ by all sorts of organizations and individuals.

The number of tracking devices is set to (3)_____, as sensors are added to appliances, lights, HVAC systems, and even trashcans. Most of us already carry around a tracking device (4)_____ we usually pay good money – a smartphone. Wi-Fi signals (5)_____ track our movements; from where we walk to our heart rates. Retailers can use this technology to track (6)_____ details like how we navigate a store, or even reach for a product. What else might they be tracking?

On a positive (7)_____, encryption methods are getting better at (8)_____ at least some aspects of our digital lives, allowing us to (9)_____ some semblance of privacy. But living a(n) (10)_____ life might soon become impossible. Someone somewhere will always know where we are, and, potentially, what we are doing.

1.	A. rightfully	B. moderately	C. accordingly	D. subsequently
2.	A. cut	B. grated	C. ground	D. crunched
3.	A. bang	B. blast	C. burst	D. boom
4.	A. in that	B. of what	C. for which	D. wherefore
5.	A. variously	B. gradually	C. successively	D. continuously
6.	A. minor	B. slight	C. narrow	D. meager
7.	A. side	B. note	C. tone	D. perspective
8.	A. dolling out	B. walling off	C. carving out	D. splitting up
9.	A. preserve	B. reserve	C. conserve	D. reverse
10.	A. reclusive	B. excluded	C. restrictive	D. insolent

II. READING (35 PTS)

PART A: READ THE PASSAGE AND CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS. **(10 PTS)**

A Good Sense of Time

In order to measure time, humans had to invent time-measuring devices. The Romans could tell the time with a sundial, and centuries later the first mechanical clocks arrived. Today, we have the atomic clock, which calculates time, not according to the position of the sun, but according to sub-atomic quantum events – a technique that cannot be interfered with by an overcast sky or a shaky floor. But while successive time-measuring inventions have increased in accuracy, reliability, and sophistication, all of them were designed for the same purpose: to compensate for humans' natural inability to measure time with only their minds and bodies.

But measuring time and sensing time are two different things. Like most living creatures, humans do not need devices to sense the passing of time. On the contrary, our cells and organs are tightly **attuned** to a 24-hour cycle, like a composite biological hourglass designed to measure one whole day. Known as circadian rhythms, these provide the daily timetable for bodily functions, telling the body when to release different hormones, such as when to make us hungry or sleepy. So finely tuned are the body's circadian rhythms that it is almost as impossible to disrupt as an atomic clock. Even though the circadian rhythms normally depend on sunlight, organisms kept in complete darkness will still wake, eat, and sleep at almost exactly the same times as regularly as clockwork.

But what about time periods shorter than this daily 24-hour cycle? Although humans cannot measure a span of time in seconds, minutes, and hours – not without the aid of a device, such as a clock or a stopwatch – we do have an innate ability to mentally differentiate between longer and shorter time spans. If you listen to someone clapping once every five seconds, and then hear a delay of six seconds before the next clap, your brain immediately registers that there is a difference. You may only be able to hazard a guess as to how many seconds there were between each clap, but you will be able to say, with absolute certainty, where the shorter and longer gaps were.

Neuroscientists are still **perplexed** as to how the brain accomplishes this. One theory has it that the brain is constantly emitting thousands of electrical pulses, like a chorus of biological pacemakers, each one timed to different intervals. When two or more of these electrical pulses coincide, the brain registers a tick – like the tick of a clock.

To better grasp how this complex mechanism works, imagine the brain's electrical pulses as drumbeats. If one drummer plays slowly and another rapidly, the beats will be out of sync for most of the time, but there will be precise moments when both drums sound together. The brain can recognize these moments and the time that elapses between them. There are so many electrical pulses in the brain that an analogy might be an entire orchestra of drummers, each one beating out a different rhythm! But from this seemingly random **cacophony**, the brain can pick out the exact moments when at least two of these thousands of drumbeats happen simultaneously, and it automatically monitors these moments like the ticks of a clock.

This fascinating brain function is the reason why humans can tap out a beat, maintaining the exact same interval between each tap. It is the reason we can tell the difference between waiting in line at the supermarket for 10 minutes or 15 minutes, even without glancing at a watch or a clock. And it is the reason dogs become agitated when their owners have been out of the home for five-and-a-half hours, instead of the usual five, even though most dogs don't know how to use stopwatches!

1. What is the writer's main purpose in this text?

A. to argue against overreliance on time-measuring devices
B. to underscore that humans can't measure time without devices
C. to explain a remarkable instinctive ability
D. to prove that humans' sense of time is inaccurate

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. What does the writer imply about sundials and mechanical clocks?
A. Minor factors can interfere with these devices. B. These devices are as reliable as more modern ones.
C. It is possible to tell the time of day without these devices. D. Both these devices copy ancient Roman designs.

3. Why does the writer mention organisms living in darkness?
A. to show that circadian rhythms depend on sunlight B. to demonstrate that people need clocks to tell the time
C. to explain one of the functions of circadian rhythms D. to highlight the accuracy of circadian rhythms

4. According to the text, what are humans able to sense instinctively?
A. any delay that lasts no more than one second B. the difference between longer and shorter stretches of time
C. the number of hours in the daily cycle D. the exact duration of a time interval in seconds

5. What are the "ticks" detected by the brain?
A. electrical signals that are sent to the brain B. electrical pulses emitted in various bodily organs
C. electrical pulses which occur at the same time D. electrical signals sent by various cells in the body

6. What is the purpose of paragraph 5?
A. to describe a similar biological mechanism to the one just described
B. to explain an exception to the details described previously
C. to draw an analogy between the aforementioned mechanism and a physical process
D. to further illustrate the complex operation described previously

7. What does the writer describe as an example of the instinctive ability to sense time?
A. people who can tolerate standing in line for only 10 minutes
B. the tendency of dogs to become anxious after a specific time
C. people's ability to clap after intervals of various lengths
D. the ability to tell the time without looking at a clock or watch

8. In sentence 3 of paragraph 2, which of the following means the same as "**attuned**"?
A. customized B. harmonized C. personalized D. standardized

9. In sentence 1 of paragraph 4, which of the following could replace "**perplexed**"?
A. puzzled B. certain C. positive D. inexact

10. In sentence 5 of paragraph 5, which of the following could replace "**cacophony**"?
A. beat B. music C. noise D. rhythm

PART B: FIVE SENTENCES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE PASSAGE. READ THE PASSAGE AND THEN CHOOSE FROM THE LIST A-F GIVEN BELOW THE BEST SENTENCE TO FILL IN EACH OF THE BLANKS (1-5). THERE IS ONE SENTENCE YOU DO NOT NEED TO USE. **(5 PTS)**

The "Battle of the Sexes" was a landmark tennis match held on September 20, 1973, between renowned female player Billie Jean King and former men's champion Bobby Riggs. Bobby Riggs had successfully challenged and defeated Margaret Court, 6-2, 6-1, on Mother's Day, 1973, in a highly publicized tennis match. (1)_____. Billie Jean King, twenty-nine years old, was at the peak of her game and had just captured all three titles for which she was eligible at Wimbledon earlier that summer.(2)_____. He challenged King to a match to be billed as the Battle of the Sexes. (3)_____. His chauvinistic stance asserted that even the best female athlete possessed neither the temperament nor the skill to take on an older, slower male athlete and that women's prize money should not be on par with men's. (4)_____.

With more than thirty thousand spectators gathered and an international television audience of more than forty million estimated in thirty-six countries, the event began with unparalleled showmanship. (5)_____.Though he broke King's serve once in each set, his stamina and skill were no match for hers. King prevailed 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in a match lasting two hours and four minutes. King's victory not only solidified her status as a sports icon but also represented a significant step forward in the broader fight for gender equality in sports and society.

(A) It provided not only a forum for the heated debates surrounding the era's women's liberation movement, but also for setting a stage that might help settle them

(B) Early on, King's pace and style of play surprised Riggs to the point that, having failed to return many of King's accurate shots, he double-faulted on the first set point

(C) Riggs had recorded the same feat at Wimbledon thirty-four years earlier

(D) Buoyed by momentum from that victory and seeking an even bigger venue for his promotional interests, the fifty-five-year-old Riggs set his sights on the top female player of the day

(E) King stayed out of the limelight, eliminating distractions and preparing for Riggs' unique style of play

(F) The event, held in the expansive, indoor Houston Astrodome, was promoted heavily by Riggs to counter the growing women's sports movement

PART C: SUPPLY EACH BLANK WITH **ONE** SUITABLE WORD TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL PASSAGE. **(20 PTS)**

PASSAGE 1

In the history of toys, the yo-yo (1)_____ supreme. Perhaps only the doll and the ball date back (2)_____, yet these toys lack the yo-yo's complex functional design. The yo-yo consists of two small discs, whose (3)_____ are slightly rounded on one side, and an axel that joins the discs together. A string is tied loosely around the axel at one end, and the user's ring finger at the (4)_____. The user throws the yo-yo, causing it to spin rapidly at the end of the string before shooting back into the (5)_____ hand. This design, compact enough to (6)_____ in your pocket yet complex enough to allow all manner of amazing tricks, could be considered one of the most elegant and long-lasting inventions ever, along with the wheel. Like the wheel, the yo-yo first appeared in a number of places roughly simultaneously. However, the ancient Greeks provided the earliest concrete evidence that yo-yo existed in the ancient world in the (7)_____ of vases with depictions of children playing with this toy, as well as well-preserved disc-shaped objects that are probably the only (8)_____ yo-yos from the ancient period. In ancient Greece, it was customary for young people of a certain age

LIVEWORKSHEETS

to bid fond farewell to childhood by (9)_____ their toys in honor of the gods, and it was (10)_____ to this practice that archeologists were able to unearth these unique yo-yo specimens from this time.

PASSAGE 2

Let us see the different ways in which a person may accommodate to the speech of his or her interlocutor and the reasons for doing so. For example, a teacher addressing his students or a mother talking to her baby may simplify their vocabulary and grammatical patterns in their attempt to make (1)_____ understood. In this case, they converge downwards towards their addressees' less (2)_____ linguistic proficiency. How else could they put their message (3)_____? When a sociologist tries to explain a phenomenon, using simple vocabulary, he actually converges downwards towards all those who are not versed in the jargon. Of course, speech convergence involves many other cases as well; when an acquaintance of ours pronounces "leak" as "lick", it is probably the case that, out of (4)_____, we will ignore her mistake and go on with the conversation. We may have a (5)_____ interest in pleasing our interlocutor, i.e., we may curry (6)_____ with her because we want her to lend us some money or help us with our Maths project! The same (7)_____ to a young employee who, aspiring to a salary rise or promotion, uses formal language when addressing his employers. In other words, he converges (8)_____ towards them. Moreover, affective language and phatic expressions, such as *Hello, how are you this morning?* or *I'm awfully sorry*, are clear examples of speech convergence, inasmuch as (9)_____ express solidarity and enhance rapport. Finally, consider the speech of those coming from the same region or socio-economic and political (10)_____. Fashion designers coming from Athens or shepherds hailing from Crete tend to use much the same pronunciation and style.

III. GAP FILLING: COMPLETE EACH SET OF SENTENCES WITH ONLY **ONE** WORD. **(5 PTS)**

1. a. The director tried to _____ me in the male lead.
   b. Japan _____ a spell over the visitors as soon as the plane landed.
   c. After falling off the ladder, Murray had his leg in a(n)_____.
2. a. Aubrey entered the music room with a(n)_____ grin on her face.
   b. This accredited university offers a(n)_____ range of subjects.
   c. Shockingly, the robbery happened in _____ daylight in the busiest part of the town.
3. a. The curtains really _____ cleaning.
   b. The museum closed down for _____ of more funding.
   c. The last thing I _____ is more trouble with the police.
4. a. His _____ reason for making the journey was to visit his family.
   b. This school is pretty small, with only thirteen teachers and a(n)_____.
   c. The _____ of this business has an office in London.
5. a. You did her a(n)_____ by telling her the truth.
   b. Simon has just celebrated 30 years' _____ with the company.
   c. I suspect those organisations just pay lip _____ to the environmental issues.

IV. WORD FORMS: SUPPLY THE APPROPRIATE FORMS OF THE WORDS IN BRACKETS. **(10 PTS)**

1. When congratulated, she replied, rather _____, "It's no big deal." [**face**]
2. Despite all the hype, the restaurant's signature dish left most diners _____. [**whelm**]
3. I threw away the yogurt two days past its _____ date. [**use**]
4. A balanced diet and regular exercise can help extend your _____ well into old age. [**health**]
5. The doctor prescribed _____ to help manage his high blood pressure more effectively. [**tension**]
6. During the music festival, many attendees chose to _____ instead of driving separately. [**ride**]
7. It seems _____ , but lowering the price of a luxury item can sometimes reduce its sales because people associate higher cost with higher quality. [**intuition**]
8. The document was _____ damaged when the hard drive crashed with no backup. [**deem**]
9. There was no _____ her talent; her performance was flawless. [**say**]
10. The insurance policy covers sudden death or occupational _____. [**able**]

LIVEWORKSHEETS

V. SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION: COMPLETE THE SECOND SENTENCE SO THAT IT MEANS THE SAME AS THE FIRST ONE, USING THE WORD GIVEN. YOU MUST USE **FROM FIVE TO TWELVE WORDS, INCLUDING THE WORD GIVEN**. **(20 PTS)**

1. The experienced detective noticed that the signature was fake. (**MILE**)

   → The forged _____ eye of the detective.

2. Despite facing insurmountable obstacles, the workers fought hard to demand better wages. (**NAIL**)

   → Although the odds _____ for better pay.

3. It was unwise of you not to reach out to the manager before making that decision. (**BASE**)

   → You should _____ with the manager.

4. There's a widespread belief that digital storytelling has made history lessons more engaging. (**BREATHED**)

   → Digital storytelling is _____ history lessons.

5. The critics are sure to be harsh in the reviews. (**PUNCHES**)

   → There's no question _____ in the reviews.

6. I was lucky to pull off a narrow escape from the fire. (**SKIN**)

   → It was a _____ of my teeth.

7. Even when the rescue team tried to reassure them, the family remained pessimistic about their missing dog. (**HOLD**)

   → Notwithstanding _____ for their missing dog.

8. Everyone was dumbfounded as the clock suddenly chimed by itself. (**ACCORD**)

   → The clock _____ everyone aback.

9. While I found the phone design rather imaginative, it didn't meet the expected standard. (**MUSTARD**)

   → Imaginative _____ .

10. The thieves quickly ran away the moment they spotted the policeman. (**HEELS**)

    → Scarcely _____ .

THE END OF THE TEST

LIVEWORKSHEETS