Choose the word or phrase that best completes the conversation or sentence.

51 The prosecution is gathering witnesses _____ evidence in court against the accused.
A. which present a role that
B. that their role is presenting
C. whose role is to present
D. whose role it is to present

52 Listening to composers, such as Tchaikovsky and Mozart, _____ by many people; not just classical music fans.
A. is thought to be relaxing
B. think of it as being relaxing
C. thought of it is relaxing
D. is being thought of as relaxing

53 After further examination the surgeon noticed that _____ to the patient's bones was minimal.
A. damages
B. damage
C. a damage
D. the damaged

54 The town council needs permission from the mayor in order _____ things for next year's town parade.
A. to start preparing
B. starting and preparing
C. to start the preparation for
D. to be starting the preparation for

55 "My car is making a strange noise."
"_____ something wrong with the alternator."
A. Here it seems to be
B. It seems being
C. That seems to be
D. There seems to be

56 _____ vacation as fantastic and truly memorable as the one Jackie went on to the Himalayas last year.
A. Has there ever been any
B. It has never been any
C. There hasn't ever been any
D. Never has been a

57 Although the company seems very successful and popular, it has _____ actual money. Everything is built off loans and debts.
A. less or no
B. little or no
C. many or not
D. not any or little

58 Using signet rings on documents and letters is a European tradition _____ ancient Greece and Rome.
A. which is dating back
B. that dates further back to
C. which dates further from
D. that dates back to

59 _____ competed in track and field competitions around the country, but I've also won medals with my team as well.
A. Not have I only
B. Not only have I
C. I not only have
D. I have only not

60 _____ the charity's system for evaluating volunteers should have a policy on performance.
A. Directly
B. Following
C. Ideally
D. Previously

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING: GRAMMAR

61 "Do you like riding on roller coasters?"
"Just _____ of it makes me feel queasy."
A. a thought
B. by thought
C. as I thought
D. the thought

62 The man accused of robbery asked that he _____ on bail until the court hearing.
A. will be released
B. is to release
C. was releasing himself
D. be released

63 The board of directors demands the firm _____ the government tender as soon as possible.
A. inspects this application in
B. inspect this application for
C. inspection of this application
D. to inspect this application at

64 The federal government _____ realistic long-term plans to improve the education system.
A. pledges of developing
B. is pledging development
C. has pledged to develop
D. has been pledging development

65 The architectural building design was _____ the city's planning commission.
A. denied by
B. denying of
C. denied of
D. in the denial of

66 "Is it all right if I'm late for the meeting?"
"I would appreciate it _____ there on time."
A. if you had been
B. if you are
C. if you were
D. if you will be

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read the passage, then select the word or phrase that fills the blank in both meaning and grammar.

This passage is about toys.

Toys such as bells, balls, and human or animal figures are familiar to everyone all over the world. They ___(67)___ the immediate and universal needs of children during the various stages of their development. For this reason, they have been common to all of humanity ___(68)___ history.

Balls and knuckle bones, the latter used in a game similar to dice, were the most widespread toys in Greece and later in Rome. Other favorites were dolls, puppets, spinning tops, and ___(69)___ weapons. During the Middle Ages, toys ___(70)___ to a more rudimentary and simple form, while during the Renaissance toys became ___(71)___ more refined.

The Baroque era was ___(72)___ of unusual and clever products of the ___(73)___. Elaborate toys of great ___(74)___, such as the magic lantern and tin soldiers, were introduced. In this era, the affluent middle and upper classes of the Netherlands also made the first doll houses, ___(75)___.

In more recent times, the development of industry had a major effect on the design and manufacturing of toys. New materials like rubber and plastics were used. Mass production was suddenly ___(76)___, and technology was advancing. Model cars operated by remote control and, of course, the ubiquitous video game, reflect the influence of modern technology.

67 A. meet
B. forge
C. build
D. support

68 A. within
B. beyond
C. around
D. throughout

69 A. sham
B. mock
C. counterfeit
D. fictional

70 A. were reducing
B. were reduced
C. reduced
D. were reducible

71 A. severally
B. evenly
C. increasingly
D. thoroughly

72 A. a generation
B. a timeline
C. a period
D. a dynasty

73 A. inspiration
B. imagination
C. visualization
D. illusion

74 A. levity
B. novelty
C. anomaly
D. brevity

75 A. based on miniature furniture
B. to replace children's dolls
C. to help mass production
D. complete with miniature furniture

76 A. seasonal
B. tactful
C. feasible
D. optional

LIVEWORKSHEETS

This passage is about a chemical that helps fight disease.

Recent studies have revealed that a compound found in the livers of sharks can help fight many human viruses. The substance, called squalamine, was first ___(77)___ in 1993 by Dr. Michael Zasloff who had been studying the unsophisticated ___(78)___ effective immune systems of sharks. A synthetic version of squalamine was developed in 1995 and has since been used in studies.

Zasloff first began to study the cancer-fighting properties of squalamine after discovering that the compound ___(79)___ the growth of new blood vessels, a process that is of ___(80)___ importance to the growth of cancerous tumors. Zasloff, who enlisted the help of ___(81)___ across the United States, later ___(82)___ studying squalamine's antiviral properties and was very pleased with his findings. Lab tests revealed the substance's effectiveness ___(83)___ many viruses which are ___(84)___ difficult or impossible to cure, such as yellow fever, dengue fever, and hepatitis. Squalamine's success ___(85)___ in its ability to stop a virus from replicating and by increasing the ___(86)___ of body tissues against viruses.

Additional testing must be completed to determine the maximum effectiveness of the chemical as an antiviral agent, as well as the proper dosages to administer.

77 A. explored
B. pioneered
C. observed
D. created

78 A. and yet
B. but still
C. rather than
D. after all

79 A. withheld
B. inhibited
C. annulled
D. forbade

80 A. fundamental
B. necessary
C. indispensable
D. urgent

81 A. a famous researcher
B. recent scientific findings
C. different research facilities
D. new medicines

82 A. trained in
B. focused on
C. approved of
D. majored in

83 A. to fighting
B. in fighting
C. having fought
D. that fought

84 A. directly
B. immediately
C. currently
D. shortly

85 A. rests
B. holds
C. lives
D. lies

86 A. defiance
B. repulsion
C. refusal
D. resistance

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Choose the word or phrase that most appropriately completes the sentence.

87 _____ agreement has been reached between the management and workers, but it's not yet definite.
A. An absolute
B. A tentative
C. A terminal
D. A fixed

88 Katherine's face was red and her voice _____ from shouting at the top of her lungs.
A. terse
B. tense
C. coarse
D. hoarse

89 Some overseas travelers do not _____ the money they spend on first class airfare.
A. groan
B. moan
C. begrudge
D. gripe

90 The patient's _____ to his former condition meant that he had to have more treatment.
A. regression
B. reduction
C. recession
D. remobilization

91 Jake was scolded by the teacher for _____ his book across the room.
A. snarling
B. hurling
C. curling
D. twirling

92 A _____ in property prices has benefited many first-time buyers.
A. slip
B. slump
C. clash
D. boost

93 The critic's review was very _____ as he did not give an in-depth analysis of the novel.
A. superlative
B. superfluous
C. superficial
D. superior

94 The evidence clearly _____ several senior executives in the security fraud.
A. implicated
B. implied
C. inflicted
D. inferred

95 The fact that his alibi didn't check out was _____ evidence.
A. discriminating
B. incriminating
C. invigorating
D. undulating

96 Mia felt _____ resentful when her coworker got promoted over her and stormed out of the office.
A. sublimely
B. intensely
C. aggregately
D. absentmindedly

97 This apartment complex is going _____, and is in dire need of serious repairs.
A. to the dogs
B. through the roof
C. off the deep end
D. through the motions

98 Since all the evidence pointed to his innocence, he was _____ the charges.
A. condemned for
B. discarded by
C. dismissed with
D. cleared of

99 The new drug approved by the FDA is extremely _____ and should be taken in small doses.
A. potent
B. mighty
C. vigorous
D. forceful

100 Housing prices have risen in order to _____ the increased cost of building materials.
A. outset
B. onset
C. inset
D. offset

101 Motherhood doesn't immediately _____ to mind when you think of Rebecca.
A. strike
B. spring
C. skip
D. surge

102 The region has _____ supply of water due to high annual rainfalls.
A. an extreme
B. a relative
C. an abundant
D. a maximum

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read the passage, then answer the questions following it according to the information given in the passage.

This passage is about food preservation.

Since the earliest times, humans have sought out ways to preserve their food whether harvested or hunted. They understood that it was unsustainable to hunt or harvest all the time. Depending on the climate, these early humans froze meat on ice or dried food in the hot sun in order to preserve it. Subsequently, they no longer had to keep moving after a meal in search for the next hunt or new land to harvest. They could store some of their food supply for later use and settle down as a group.

Throughout history various methods of hot and cold preservations were employed by different civilizations. When natural climate conditions were not conducive, other means such as fire were used to dry fruits and vegetables as done in the 'still houses' of the middle ages. For cooling, often lower than freezing temperatures were used to prolong shelf life. Underground caves proved to be effective for that purpose. Ice boxes and finally refrigeration followed.

In the 1800s, the canning method was developed by a French confectioner named Nicolas Appert in response to an award. General Napoléon Bonaparte offered a prize of 12,000 francs to anyone who could devise a practical method for preserving food for his armies on the battlefield. Appert's method involved tightly sealing cooked food in glass jars with cork stoppers. Once sealed, the jars were immersed in boiling water to drive the air out. Appert's method was a success and he won Napoléon's award. Appert believed that it was the exclusion of air that prevented food from spoiling. It was not until many years later that Louis Pasteur proved that high temperatures were actually responsible for eliminating the bacteria that caused food spoilage. Pasteur devised a method to safely store food by treating canned products at a much lower temperature than that of Appert and thereby retaining the food's taste and nutritional content.

Even today with advanced food preservation technologies and research, people are still concerned about where their food comes from and how it is processed. For whatever the reasons, be it food allergies or worries over contamination and shortages, home food preservation is on the rise with classes now being offered as people take it upon themselves to preserve their own food.

103 What is the main purpose of this passage?
A. to compare different food preservation methods
B. to describe the origins of food preservation
C. to explain the science behind food preservation
D. to illustrate the importance of food preservation

104 In the second sentence of paragraph 1, which word could best replace **unsustainable**?
A. imperishable
B. inexhaustible
C. nonrenewable
D. unfeasible

105 Why are caves mentioned in the passage?
A. to highlight another way to dry food
B. to explain a natural cooling process
C. to describe a type of dwelling in the middle ages
D. to illustrate where some food was preserved

106 What does the author suggest about Nicholas Appert?
A. He didn't understand the science behind his method.
B. His method was not always effective.
C. He was motivated by an interest in science.
D. His goal was to advance research in bacteria.

107 What advantage did Pasteur's preservation method have over Appert's?
A. It maintained the nutritive quality of the food.
B. It required no heating for preservation.
C. It was safer and bacteria free.
D. It was easier to store the food products.

108 According to the author, what indicates a new interest in food preservation?
A. an increase in academic research
B. classes on preservation
C. more food allergies developing
D. increases in food contamination

LIVEWORKSHEETS

This passage is about beavers.

As the largest rodents in the world, beavers are truly remarkable animals. Known as nature's engineers for their incredible feats in construction, beavers use their powerful jaws and incredibly sharp teeth to cut down trees in order to build dams and homes.

Weighing up to 60 pounds, beavers need water for survival, living off fresh water lakes and rivers. Their dams create a flooded area resulting in a pond that the beavers and other wildlife depend on. In the middle of the pond, the beaver family builds an island-like home called a lodge which is accessible only from under the water thus keeping them safe from predators.

The newly created pond becomes a productive wetland thriving with life. Such wetlands support biodiversity that rivals that of the tropical rainforests of the world. The dams are essential in alleviating droughts in other areas by redirecting water to them. The wetlands the dams create act as sophisticated filters that clean the water resulting in cleaner water downstream from the dams.

Much of the beaver's capabilities are due in part to its paddle-shaped tail. It's the ultimate gadget propelling the beaver to swim at speeds of 5 mph along with frightening away predators by slapping the water's surface. Likewise on land, the robust tail functions as a stable support beam when the beaver works busily gnawing on trees.

Beavers are nocturnal builders although they do not hibernate in the winter. Industrious and hardworking, they are able to change their surroundings in a way no other species can, except humans. The results are a wide-range of positive effects on the landscape and ecology in general. All this from a big rodent.

109 What is the main purpose of this passage?
A. to describe the beaver's habitat
B. to introduce an ecological issue
C. to illustrate how beavers impact the environment
D. to present recent changes in beaver behavior

110 According to the passage, what is one way beaver dams assist its immediate surroundings?
A. by providing new water sources
B. by altering the flow of water
C. by cleaning the water near it
D. by creating much needed floods

111 What point does the author make about beaver ponds?
A. They are similar to ponds found in rainforests.
B. They can interfere with surrounding wildlife.
C. They are used for underwater houses.
D. A number of species depend on them.

112 In the third sentence of paragraph 3, what does **them** refer to?
A. dams
B. droughts
C. rainforests
D. wetlands

113 In the fourth paragraph, why does the author refer to the beaver's tail as a gadget?
A. due to its incredible strength
B. because it has a specific function
C. as it serves multiple purposes
D. for its use in the water

114 What can be concluded about beavers?
A. They are most productive during the day.
B. They are good at manipulating their environment.
C. Their behavior has been affected by the wetlands.
D. They cause a lot of problems for other species.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

This passage is about art.

The buying and selling of art has become a lucrative business, but in a world where fakes and forgeries are rampant, how do collectors know they are getting the real thing? Recognizing the difference between a fake and an original artwork requires rigorous analysis of the artwork in a process called art authentication.

The initial step is to research an artwork's provenance. This is the history of owners from the artist's hand to the present date. For provenance to establish authenticity, the documentation must show an interrupted chain of ownership. Caution needs to be taken, though, as to the reliability of the information as this could easily be false along with the artwork.

In most cases, proof of provenance needs to be supported by other forms of authentication. Matching styles and techniques as well as a thorough technical analysis of materials is needed. Paint and canvas should be dated and chemically analyzed as certain colors appeared only at certain points in history. For example, Prussian Blue was first developed around 1702 while another blue ultra marine was synthesized in 1826. Therefore, any painting with these pigments claiming to be created before these dates would be false based on this objective data. The presence of historically correct techniques and materials, however, does not necessarily prove an artwork to be authentic. Testing and provenance are important pieces of the puzzle but an expert eye is what completes the authentication.

Art authenticators have become even more important as spending on art has soared tempting even more forgers. Despite this need, the number of authenticators is dwindling with many believing their work lacks objectivity. More likely, though, the reason lies with collectors disgruntled when they are told their Van Gogh is actually a clever forgery. Expensive lawsuits often result by owners against experts who refuse to authenticate a work. Auction houses need proof of authenticity to sell the art while stakeholders like artist foundations want the amount of authentic works of their artists to remain low in the art market. Some might question the need for authenticators but art authentication is essential to keep forgery at bay and maintain a level of integrity in the art world.

115 What is the main purpose of the passage?
- A. to show how unreliable art authentication is
- B. to argue against the use of art authentication
- C. to illustrate the technical side of art authentication
- D. to explain how complicated authenticating art can be

116 What is implied about provenance as a form of art authentication?
- A. It can be difficult to establish.
- B. There are often gaps in ownership timelines.
- C. It must be backed up by a technical analysis.
- D. It can also be forged or dishonestly altered.

117 How does color help authenticate paintings?
- A. It reflects certain periods of art.
- B. It can show where a painting was done.
- C. It can identify certain time periods.
- D. It shows the importance of blues at certain dates.

118 In the third paragraph, what does the author mean by **pieces of the puzzle**?
- A. intricately examined details
- B. parts of a solution
- C. confusing pieces of data
- D. interdependent information

119 According to the passage, what is causing the decline in the number of art authenticators?
- A. retaliation from disappointed collectors
- B. pressure by auction houses
- C. rejection from artist foundations
- D. distrust in their judgments

120 What implication in the passage does the author likely disagree with?
- A. Art authenticators have proven themselves obsolete.
- B. Art authentication is still essential in today's art world.
- C. Successful art authentication requires a combination of methods.
- D. Technical examination is an objective way to authenticate art.

LIVEWORKSHEETS