

**I. Vocabulary. 50%**

*For each question, choose the answer that best completes the sentence.*

1. In the TV show *The X-Files*, Scully was drafted by the FBI to provide the much-needed rational, hard-science counterpoint to Mulder's \_\_\_\_\_ theories about the paranormal.  
A. tactical                      B. outlandish                      C. litigious
2. The bubble tea, widely considered to have originated in Taichung, Taiwan, has taken the world by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. stage                              B. story                              C. storm
3. The phone call between Taiwanese President Tsai and US President Trump one month before he \_\_\_\_\_ office was believed to have complicated relations among the US, Taiwan, and China.  
A. assumed                      B. acquired                      C. attracted
4. The latest to \_\_\_\_\_ to Google's AlphaGo—the AI developed to tackle the world's most demanding strategy game—was Go's top-ranked player, Ke Jie.  
A. succumb                      B. seduce                      C. separate
5. In recent years, Stephen Hawking has examined the relationship between science and religion and argued that \_\_\_\_\_ God is not necessary to explain the origins of the universe.  
A. provoking                      B. evoking                      C. motivating
6. The 2017 Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning was awarded to Jim Morin for editorial cartoons that \_\_\_\_\_ sharp perspectives through flawless artistry, biting prose and crisp wit.  
A. overlooked                      B. presided                      C. delivered
7. Professor Viet Nguyen explained that literature and power cannot be separated. American literature is read around the world not only because of its \_\_\_\_\_ value, but because the world always reads the literature of empires.  
A. indecipherable                      B. inherent                      C. indecent
8. Paul Logan reflected that he became skillful at \_\_\_\_\_ illnesses to get out of gym class.  
A. driving                      B. operating                      C. feigning
9. As Proust stated, the remembrance of things past is not \_\_\_\_\_ the remembrance of things as they were.  
A. necessarily                      B. casually                      C. dramatically
10. Even though the twins share uncanny \_\_\_\_\_ in their appearance, they are completely different in character.  
A. insurance                      B. ignorance                      C. resemblance
11. Amazon is working toward using \_\_\_\_\_ to deliver packages by releasing parcels from high up in the air and deploying parachutes to slow down the descent.  
A. rockets                      B. drones                      C. spaceships
12. Angela Lee Duckworth believes that \_\_\_\_\_ is a better predictor of success than IQ.  
A. property                      B. procedure                      C. perseverance
13. When giving advice, it is best to be sincere and honest rather than to offer \_\_\_\_\_ platitudes.  
A. banal                      B. irregular                      C. splotchy

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14. Amy Chua described her book, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, as a self-\_\_\_\_\_ rather than a how-to book on raising children.  
A. discipline                      B. advertisement                      C. parody
15. Jessica attributed her slim figure to chasing her two young \_\_\_\_\_ sons around the house all day. She remembered how they could not even sit still or keep quiet for one minute.  
A. serene                              B. rambunctious                      C. placid
16. John was \_\_\_\_\_ to people's criticisms of him; either he didn't care or he didn't even notice.  
A. oblivious                              B. hurtful                              C. decisive
17. Anna Wintour, editor-in-chief of *Vogue*, finally took off her \_\_\_\_\_ sunglasses when she was made a dame by Queen Elizabeth II in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.  
A. transcending                              B. tranquil                              C. trademark
18. A \_\_\_\_\_ is usually the final speaker at a graduation ceremony.  
A. historian                              B. grammarian                              C. valedictorian
19. Nietzsche believed that our writing \_\_\_\_\_ are also working on our thoughts. He was referring to the relationship between writing tools and the expression of ideas.  
A. thermos                              B. instruments                              C. volumes
20. When George Washington said that there is nothing more necessary than good intelligence to frustrate a designing enemy, he was probably referring to the craft of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. espionage                              B. quilting                              C. industry
21. An animal that moves by *slithering* along is the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. snake                              B. bear                              C. goose
22. "Every paragraph of this research paper is pure *drivel*," the teacher wrote. She apparently felt that the research paper was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. brilliant and original                              B. well organized                              C. poorly written
23. "No one can really *fathom* eternity," said the preacher. He meant that no one can \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. believe in eternity                              B. live for all eternity                              C. grasp the meaning of eternity
24. Near the very end of his life, and largely because he had no more lungs, John finally quit smoking. He gained a couple of pounds, but by then he was so *emaciated* no one noticed. The word *emaciated* in this sentence means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. thin                              B. muscular                              C. healthy
25. Jack likes to get his thrills *vicariously*, so he \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. sky-dives, bungee-jumps, and mountain-climbs  
B. plays a lot of sports  
C. sits in his living room watching people do dangerous stunts on TV

## II. Close. 32%

In the article below, choose the best answer for each numbered blank from the corresponding choices provided.

There are some astonishing male coming-of-age films. For instance, Richard Linklater's acclaimed *Boyhood* depicts the subtle moments and emotional experiences of \_26\_ Mason Evan Jr.,

played by Ellar Coltrane. Exceptional 27 concept, execution and exploration of events such as divorce, blended families, young love and painful separations, it offers a boy-turns-to-man perspective.

Barry Jenkin's Oscar-winning *Moonlight*, 28, also chronicles the life of a young boy called Chiron, played as a child by Alex Hibbert. Unlike Mason's relatively charmed upbringing, Chiron deals with an abusive mother as well as other harrowing experiences involving racism, drug abuse, bullying and sexuality. This is a brave and valuable 29 of cinema. But, 30, the emotional core of the narrative is male.

Another revered and influential male coming-of-age film is Nicholas Ray's *Rebel Without a Cause*. James Dean's groundbreaking performance as a troubled youth in this film defined teenage angst in the post-war period.

It's hard to think of a female equivalent to Dean's character. 31, while there have been some excellent films that trace a young woman's path from childhood to adulthood (such as Rosemary Myer's *Girl Asleep* and Kelly Fremon Craig's *The Edge of Seventeen*) none are as highly prized as male coming-of-age stories.

Women's films also have a tendency to undercut serious issues impacting upon a young person's development. In *Heathers* and *Mean Girls* bitchiness operates as source of humour in undermining the psychological harm of bullying. 32 the highly respected *Stand by Me* treats this issue, and others (such as childhood death) with an appropriate solemnity, giving this male coming-of-age drama "gravitas".

Men's lives overwhelmingly dominate our screens and this 33 can be attributed to a historical marginalization of female directors. In the US, efforts to investigate discriminatory practices against female directors found that only 9% of the top 250 grossing films of 2015 featured women filmmakers.

Last week actor Jessica Chastain, a member of the jury at this year's Cannes film festival, said that she was disturbed by the "way female characters were depicted in film" asserting that "the way the world views women" is greatly influenced by their cinematic representation or rather lack 34:

I hope when we include female storytellers, they will be more like the women I know in my day-to-day life. They are proactive, have their own point of view and don't just react to men around them.

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|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 26. A. the          | B. none            | C. some         | D. one        |
| 27. A. for          | B. in              | C. by           | D. on         |
| 28. A. for a while  | B. by and by       | C. meanwhile    | D. whatsoever |
| 29. A. screen       | B. piece           | C. strand       | D. post       |
| 30. A. once again   | B. thus            | C. whatever     | D. however    |
| 31. A. Apart from   | B. Indeed          | C. Still        | D. But        |
| 32. A. By contrast  | B. Moreover        | C. Likely       | D. Similarly  |
| 33. A. nevertheless | B. instead         | C. additionally | D. in part    |
| 34. A. inasmuch as  | B. notwithstanding | C. thereof      | D. henceforth |

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It is difficult to name a single film primarily about a woman (or women) that has won Best Picture over the Academy Award's 89-year history. The fact that 76% of the Oscar voting is done by men does not help matters. While Kathryn Bigelow remains the only woman to win Best Director or direct a Best Picture winner (*The Hurt Locker*), her film \_35\_ dramatizes the lives of men.

Although the female-directed *Wonder Woman* has come to be a box office hit, it is \_36\_ a small advancement in an industry where women have little control over the development, production and realization of cinematic storytelling.

Even beyond the Anglo-American axis of mainstream film making \_37\_ there are accomplished female directors producing extraordinary features about women's lives, epic narratives chronicling a young woman's passage from childhood to adulthood are uncommon.

And \_38\_ there is a rich literary history of women's coming-of-age novels, relatively few have been successfully adapted to screen—other than *Little Women* and the critically acclaimed French-Iranian *Persepolis* (2007).

Interestingly, a brilliant example of the coming-of-age film was produced in Australia—\_39\_ three decades ago. John Duigan's 1987 film *The Year My Voice Broke* is an unconventional coming-of-age story in giving equal weight to the lives of a boy and a girl growing up in rural New South Wales. Based on Duigan's own childhood, Danny is the ostensible protagonist, played by Noah Taylor. However, the film also provides an extremely sensitive portrayal of Danny's best friend Freya (Loene Carmen). She is arguably one of Australian cinema's most finely developed female characters, evoking the subtle shade of a burgeoning womanliness.

Cinematic storytelling not only invents characters and their experiences, it influences how we think and what we believe.

It is \_40\_ to know that Screen Australia's \$5 million program Gender Matters fosters women's participation in the film industry. Productions currently in development include a miniseries on Germaine Greer, a feature on the life of jockey Michelle Payne and a comedy drama based on three young Lebanese women living in Sydney's western suburbs.

Acclaimed American actress Geena Davis's Institute on Gender in Media is also committed to putting women's lives and experiences on the big screen by advocating for their equal representation.

But there is much work to be done in closing cinema's gender gap. In the meantime, we \_41\_ an epic feature devoted to the life of a woman that is tantamount in scale and ambition to the likes of *Boyhood*.

- |                    |                |                  |               |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 35. A. although    | B. once more   | C. on account of | D. in which   |
| 36. A. nonetheless | B. furthermore | C. ergo          | D. without    |
| 37. A. that        | B. where       | C. whom          | D. which      |
| 38. A. despite     | B. in spite of | C. also          | D. while      |
| 39. A. in          | B. some        | C. among         | D. of         |
| 40. A. heartening  | B. staggering  | C. unnerving     | D. depressing |
| 41. A. allure      | B. affect      | C. await         | D. achieve    |

**III. Reading Comprehension. 18%**

*Read the article below and choose the best answer for each question.*

My reaction was as it always is when I see an animal lying in the roadway. My heart sank. And a lump formed in my throat at the thought of a life unfulfilled. I then resolved to move him off the road, to ensure that one of God's creations did not become a permanent part of the pavement. Some might ask what difference it makes. If it's already dead, why not just leave it there? My answer is that I believe in death with dignity, for people and animals alike.

So I pulled my car over to the side of the road and walked back to where the cat lay motionless. Two cars passed over him, managing to avoid running him over. With no other cars in sight, I made my way to the lifeless form just as a jogger went by. The jogger grimaced at the sight of the immobile cat, blood dripping from his mouth. "How'd it happen?" he asked. I replied that I didn't know; he probably got hit by some careless driver. I just wanted to get him off the road. I reached down for the cat and got the surprise of my life. The little creature lifted his head ever so slightly and uttered a pitiful, unforgettable little "meow." He was still alive.

What was I going to do now? I was already late for work. All I had intended to do was move the cat off the road. I didn't need this. But I knew I had no choice. I sighed deeply, then reached down and carefully cradled the cat in my hands. I asked the jogger to open my car trunk and remove the things from a small box. Then I gently placed the cat in the box. He was in shock, so he probably could not feel the pain from his obvious injuries. "Kinda funny lookin', isn't he?" asked the jogger. I was annoyed by his question, but I had to admit that he was right. This cat looked peculiar. Not ugly, mind you. But he seemed to have a comical look on his face, even at such a dreadful time.

"What are you gonna do with him?" the jogger asked. I told him I would take the cat to the local vet and let him decide what to do.

The vet was only five minutes away. My wife and I had been bringing our animals to him for several years, and I knew I could rely on him to do what was best for the cat. I brought the cat into the reception room and placed it on the counter. As this was an emergency, the vet was summoned right away. He examined the cat thoroughly, listing the injuries for his assistant to write down. "Broken jaw, that'll have to be set. Two teeth broken. A couple more loose. Possible internal injuries, but they don't look too bad. Uh-oh. This doesn't look good. He doesn't appear to have any movement in his right front leg. Possible break, definite ligament and tendon damage."

The vet completed his examination, then looked at me and asked what I wanted to do. I knew what he meant. Did I want to have the cat "put to sleep"? I became uneasy. I clumsily explained that I was hoping to get advice from him on what to do. Fair enough. The jaw would have to be wired shut for six weeks, and the cat would have to wear a cast on its leg for three months. There was no way of knowing if the damage to the leg was permanent. He could have the cast removed and still not be able to use the leg. The cost of all the surgery would be high, but I would get a 50 percent "good Samaritan" discount if I went ahead with it.

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Now I was really at a loss. If I went ahead with the surgery, I'd be paying for a cat which wasn't mine, whose owner I'd probably never find, and who might end up with the use of only three legs. And on top of it, this was one of the funniest-looking cats ever born. Black and white, spotted where it shouldn't be, kinked tail, and a silly half-smile on its face. I chuckled at that and the entire situation.

"What do you want to do, Bill?" asked the vet.

I shrugged my shoulders in resignation. "Dan, I'll choose life over death every time. Let's give it our best shot."

I called back later in the day and learned that the surgery had been successful. "You can pick up your cat tomorrow morning," I was told. My cat. I started to say that he was not my cat, but I knew otherwise.

The next morning, my wife and I drove to the vet and picked up the cat. He looked ghastly. His jaw was now bandaged, and a cast covered one leg entirely and wrapped around his midsection. We were dejected. But, as we drove him home, we began thinking that perhaps this cat was not as pathetic as he looked. As frightened as he must have been, as much pain as he must have felt, he sat calmly in my wife's lap. He purred and stared out the window with his curious half-smile.

When we got home, we introduced him to our two Siamese cats, who stared in disbelief at this strange creature. They sensed it might be a cat, but they had never seen one like this. It took him very little time to get used to his new surroundings. It took him longer to get used to the cast, which made even walking a chore. Surely he must have been embarrassed. After all, an animal normally able to glide around quietly should not make a resounding thump every time he moves.

In due time, the cast came off. To our relief, Pokey, as we now called him, had about 90 percent mobility in the leg. He got around okay, but he limped whenever he tried to move any faster than a slow walk.

All this occurred four years ago. Pokey is still with us today. In fact, he has become our most beloved cat. Because of his injury, he is strictly an indoor cat. This does not seem to bother him at all. It is hard to believe that any cat has ever enjoyed himself more. Maybe it's because he had been slowed after being hit by a car, or perhaps he just has a special individuality. He is never bored. At times he will race around the house like he is leading the Indy 500. Or he'll leap into the air at an imaginary foe. Or he'll purr loudly at the foot of our bed, staring into space with that silly grin on his face. And he couldn't care less that he still looks funny.

It would have been easy to let Pokey lie in the middle of the road. And it would have been just as simple to have the vet put him to sleep. But when I think of all the pleasure this cat has given us, and of how much fun he has living with us, I know the right decision was made. And I'd do it again in a second. I'll take life over death every time.

42. What does the word *resolved* mean in the underlined sentence in paragraph one?
- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. Decided. | B. Anticipated. |
| C. Negated. | D. Relegated.   |

43. What does the phrase *put to sleep* mean in the underlined sentence in paragraph six?
- To allow the cat to fall asleep.
  - To see if the cat can recover of its own accord.
  - To see if the cat will heal faster if given sleeping pills.
  - To euthanize the cat.
44. What does the word *ghastly* mean in the underlined sentence in paragraph eleven?
- Delightful.
  - Dreadful.
  - Deceitful.
  - Dutiful.
45. What does the author mean by "I'll take life over death every time" in the final paragraph?
- He will always try to save a life if he can, in whatever way possible.
  - It is sometimes difficult for him to choose between life and death.
  - He will try to take someone's life whenever he can, wherever he goes.
  - He will try to avoid death for the rest of his life.
46. Which of the following is correct?
- Pokey is loved by the author's family and enjoys life very much.
  - Even though Pokey has healed physically, he is still emotionally scarred.
  - Pokey is often bullied by the author's two Siamese cats.
  - Pokey died after spending four happy years with the author's family.
47. Why did the vet give the author a discount?
- The vet knew the author from college.
  - The vet already earned a lot of money from taking care of the author's pets.
  - The vet was celebrating an anniversary on that particular day.
  - The author was doing a good deed.
48. What can be inferred from the article?
- Pokey would have died if the author had not picked him up.
  - The jogger would have accidentally stepped on the cat.
  - The author thought that the surgery was far too expensive.
  - The author's wife was not fond of cats.
49. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?
- A good vet can do wonders when it comes to saving lives.
  - Cats have nine lives.
  - All lives are valuable, whether people's or animals'.
  - Recovery from traffic accidents is not impossible.
50. Which of the following is most likely the author's purpose in writing this article?
- To discuss how to properly raise cats as pets.
  - To show people what a good person he is.
  - To persuade readers that doing the right thing has its own rewards.
  - To encourage people to pay more attention to traffic safety.