

**Vocabulary 30%**

**Choose the word that best completes the sentence**

1. The Biden administration has already been stepping up \_\_\_\_\_ with Saudi Arabia on a variety of issues in recent months.  
a. cooperation. b. complication. c. commencement. d. coagulation.
2. The tools that Russian forces are using to wage war are often powered by American \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. interaction. b. insinuation. c. innovation. d. inculcation.
3. Sociologists had spent much of the 20th century trying to understand poverty and shifting class stratifications across the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. spectrum. b. spell. c. senility. d. sophistication.
4. Dungeons & Dragons turned out to \_\_\_\_\_ as a perfect bridge from statistics-oriented, win-or-lose simulations of complex combat to character creation and story-oriented play.  
a. spend. b. send. c. sense. d. serve.
5. From abroad, the American flag is a straightforward stand-in for the \_\_\_\_\_-state.  
a. group. b. nation. c. people. d. human.
6. The President of PEN Germany recently \_\_\_\_\_ that "the enemy is Putin, not Pushkin," relying on word games to protest against the idea of a "blanket boycott" of Russian culture.  
a. defused. b. descended. c. declared. d. demoted.
7. With his threats to use the bomb, Russia's president has \_\_\_\_\_ the nuclear order.  
a. overturned. b. overreacted. c. overstepped. d. overwhelmed.
8. The historic Maya \_\_\_\_\_ their calendars and rituals to celestial events.  
a. amplified. b. anticipated. c. audited. d. anchored.
9. Despite the increase in anti-Asian hate crimes in the U.S., one-third of Americans \_\_\_\_\_ unaware of the situation.  
a. recede. b. remain. c. represent. d. retinue.
10. Defenseless-looking ribbon worms are anything \_\_\_\_\_, according to a study of the many toxins that they produce.  
a. yet. b. as well. c. however. d. but.
11. Elden Ring has a story that has something to do with a ring, but more important is its design: It's an open-world game, meaning you can do \_\_\_\_\_, whenever you want.  
a. wherever. b. whatever. c. whoever. d. whichever.

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12. \_\_\_\_\_ mounds in the southwest corner of the Amazon Basin were once the site of ancient urban settlements, scientists have discovered.  
a. Mysterious. b. Mystified. c. Misperceived. d. Misfired.
13. Humans produce \_\_\_\_\_ two million blood cells each second, derived from a relatively small pool of haematopoietic stem cells.  
a. leisurely. b. intensely. c. roughly. d. precisely.
14. An analysis finds that women have a better chance of winning awards not named \_\_\_\_\_ a person than of winning prizes named \_\_\_\_\_ a man.  
a. after. b. before. c. as. d. with.
15. Alexander Pope wrote in an age of Party – in the political rather than Downing Street sense – and his kind of intelligence was exactly \_\_\_\_\_ to an environment in which different groups of people knew different things and supported distinct political causes.  
a. attempted. b. atoned. c. attached. d. attuned.

**Grammar & Vocabulary in Context 30%**

*Choose the best answer to each of the following test items.*

During \_\_\_\_ (16) \_\_\_\_ arguments in the defamation trial between Johnny Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard, one of Heard's attorneys, Benjamin Rottenborn, described a series of Catch-22s that often \_\_\_\_ (17) \_\_\_\_ women who, like Heard, accuse their partners of domestic violence. "If you didn't take pictures, it didn't happen; if you did take pictures, they're fake," he said. "If you didn't tell your friends, you're lying; and if you did tell your friends, they're part of the \_\_\_\_ (18) \_\_\_\_." If you didn't seek medical treatment, you weren't injured; if you did seek medical treatment, you're crazy." Rottenborn did not name a few other damned-if-you-do scenarios that were \_\_\_\_ (19) \_\_\_\_ by Depp's ferociously adept legal team in the course of the six-week-long trial: if you \_\_\_\_ (20) \_\_\_\_ record abusive behavior, you are conniving and untrustworthy; if you don't, it didn't happen. If you ever try to laugh off your partner's ghastly behavior—because the "cycle of abuse" is no less terrifying for being so pathetic and predictable—then it's not abuse. If you talk back or fight back, then you are the real abuser.

16.  
a. closed. b. closure. c. close. d. closing.

17.  
a. enact. b. ensnare. c. empower. d. enter.

18.  
a. game. b. hoax. c. trap. d. gamble.

19

a. admonished. b. attested. c. advanced. d. agreed.

20.

a. swervingly. b. serenely. c. superstitiously. d. surreptitiously.

The man \_\_\_(21)\_\_\_ with opening fire on a Taiwanese church congregation of mainly elderly people in Southern California wanted to "execute in cold blood as many people in that room as possible," a prosecutor said Tuesday in announcing murder, attempted murder and other charges for the shooting that killed one person and wounded five.

Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer referred to David Chou, 68, as a monster whose rampage was \_\_\_(22)\_\_\_ by the heroic actions of a doctor who charged at him, a pastor who hit Chou with a chair and several parishioners who tied him up until police arrived.

"This monster \_\_\_(23)\_\_\_ a diabolical plan to lock the church doors with his victims inside in order to lead what he thought were innocent lambs to \_\_\_(24)\_\_\_," Spitzer said. "But what he didn't realize was the parishioners at the church that day weren't lambs — they were lions and they fought back against the evil that tried to \_\_\_(25)\_\_\_ their house of worship."

21.

a. chartered. b. charged. c. chanced. d. chosen.

22.

a. abated. b. abetted. c. tended. d. thwarted.

23.

a. crafted. b. canned. c. combined. d. condemned.

24.

a. suffocation. b. serenade. c. slaughter. d. smidgen.

25.

a. infiltrate. b. interpret. c. implore. d. insinuate.

After the mass gun murders at Virginia Tech, I wrote about the unfathomable image of cell phones ringing in the pockets of the dead kids, and of the parents trying \_\_\_(26)\_\_\_ to reach them. And I said (as did many others), This will go on, if no one stops it, in this manner and to this degree in this country alone—alone among all the industrialized, wealthy, and so-called \_\_\_(27)\_\_\_ countries in the world. There would be another, for certain.

Then there were—many more, in fact—and when the latest and worst one happened, in Aurora, I (and many others) said, this time in a tone of despair, that nothing had changed. And I (and many others) predicted that it would happen again, soon. And that once again, the same twisted voices would say, Oh, this had nothing to do with gun laws or the misuse of the Second .

\_\_\_\_(28)\_\_\_\_ or anything except some singular madman, of whom America for some reason seems to have a particularly dense sample.

And now it has happened again, bang, like clockwork, one might say: Twenty dead children—babies, really—in a kindergarten in a prosperous town in Connecticut. And a mother screaming. And twenty families told that their grade-schooler had died. After the Aurora killings, I did a few debates with advocates for the child-killing lobby—sorry, the gun lobby—and, without \_\_\_\_ (29) \_\_\_\_ and with a mad vehemence, they told the same old lies: it doesn't happen here more often than elsewhere (yes, it does); more people are protected by guns than killed by them (no, they aren't—that's a flat-out fabrication); guns don't kill people, people do; and all the other perverted lies that people who can only be called knowing \_\_\_\_ (30) \_\_\_\_ to murder continue to repeat, people who are in their own way every bit as twisted and crazy as the killers whom they defend. (That they are often the same people who pretend outrage at the loss of a single embryo only makes the craziness still crazier.)

26.

a. disappointedly. b. disinterestedly. c. desperately. d. demotedly.

27.

a. civilized. b. barbarian. c. infrastructural. d. courteous.

28.

a. Appointment. b. Astonishment. c. Amazement. d. Amendment.

29.

a. expectation. b. experience. c. education. d. exception.

30.

a. accessories. b. accomodations. c. accentuations. d. accounts.

**Reading Comprehension 40%**

***Read the passages and choose the best answer for each of the questions.***

Every so often in "Top Gun: Maverick," Pete Mitchell (that's Maverick) is summoned to a face-to-face with an admiral. Pete, after all these years in the Navy — more than 35, but who's counting — has stalled at the rank of captain. He's one of the best fighter pilots ever to take wing, but the U.S. military hierarchy can be a treacherous political business, and Maverick is anything but a politician. In the presence of a superior officer he is apt to salute, smirk and push his career into the middle of the table like a stack of poker chips. He's all in. Always.

The first such meeting is with Rear Adm. Chester Cain, a weathered chunk of brass played by Ed Harris, who has an impressive in-movie flight record of his own. (Without "The Right Stuff,"

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there would have been no "Top Gun.") He seems to be telling Pete that the game is over. Thanks to new technology, flyboys like him are all but obsolete.

Based on this scene, you might think that the movie is setting out to be a meditation on American air power in the age of drone warfare, but that will have to wait for the next sequel. Pete still has a job to do. A teaching job, officially, but we'll get to that. The conversation with Cain is not so much a \_\_35\_\_ herring as a meta-commentary. Pete, as I'm sure I don't have to tell you, is the avatar of Tom Cruise, and the central question posed by this movie has less to do with the necessity of combat pilots than with the relevance of movie stars. With all this cool new technology at hand — you can binge 37 episodes of Silicon Valley grifting without leaving your couch — do we really need guys, or movies, like this?

31. According to this review, why is the most likely reason that Pete Mitchell never got promoted?

- a. He is too good a pilot.
- b. He has served thirty five years in the Navy.
- c. He is timid and cowardly.
- d. He does not defer to his superiors.

32. What does "all but obsolete" mean?

- a. absolutely obsolete. b. quite obsolete. c. a bit obsolete. d. not at all obsolete.

33. According to this review, is this film about drone warfare?

- a. yes. b. no. c. yes and no. d. never specified.

34. What does the author say that the scene with Cain is a "meta-commentary"?

- a. It is a commentary about airfights.
- b. It is a commentary about movie business.
- c. It is a commentary about military careers.
- d. All of the above.

35. Choose the adjective that best fills the blank.

- a. yellow. b. blue. c. red. d. purple.

Aristotle thought that the value or worth of a human being — his virtue — was something that he acquired in growing up. It follows that people who can't (women, slaves) or simply don't (manual laborers) acquire that virtue have no grounds for demanding equal respect or recognition with those who do.

As I read him, Aristotle not only did not believe in the conception of intrinsic human dignity that grounds our modern commitment to human rights, he has a philosophy that cannot be squared with it. Aristotle's inegalitarianism is less like Kant and Hume's racism and more like Descartes's views on nonhuman animals: The fact that Descartes characterizes nonhuman animals as

soulless automata is a direct consequence of his rationalist dualism. His comments on animals cannot be treated as “stray remarks.”

If cancellation is removal from a position of prominence on the basis of an ideological crime, it might appear that there is a case to be made for canceling Aristotle. He has much prominence: Thousands of years after his death, his ethical works continue to be taught as part of the basic philosophy curriculum offered in colleges and universities around the world.

And Aristotle’s mistake was serious enough that he comes off badly even when compared to the various “bad guys” of history who sought to justify the exclusion of certain groups — women, Black people, Jews, gays, atheists — from the sheltering umbrella of human dignity. Because Aristotle went so far as to think there was no umbrella.

36. According to this author, what does Aristotle think about virtue?

- a. it is inherited. b. it is inherent. c. it is gained. d. it is purchased.

37. According to this author, is Aristotle sexist? Is it relevant to his philosophy?

- a. yes and yes. b. yes and no. c. no and yes. d. no and no.

38. What is “cancellation,” according to this piece?

- a. censorship based on identities. b. censorship based on viewpoints. c. censorship based on class. d. all of the above.

39. Why, in this author’s view, does Aristotle seem more deserving of cancellation?

- a. He is extreme. b. He is influential. c. He discriminates against people. d. all of the above.

In a message to Chinese aerospace engineers and researchers for “Youth Day” earlier this month, President Xi Jinping shared his ambitions for the industry. Young workers should advance the cause of Chinese self-reliance, he said, following in the footsteps of their predecessors who developed a home-grown nuclear weapon, missile and satellite, with little help from outsiders, in a campaign in the era of Mao Zedong called “Two bombs, one satellite”.

(a) On the face of things, this is an odd message to trumpet in the country that has benefited more than any other from the most recent wave of globalization. (b) Now it is the biggest partner of more than 60. Between 1985 and 2015 Chinese exports of goods to America rose by a factor of 125. Partly as a result of the associated manufacturing boom, growth in China’s GDP per person averaged more than 8% a year from 2001 to 2020.

(c) But the Chinese government has never been completely comfortable with globalization, whatever the benefits. The process of “reform and opening up” started by Deng Xiaoping in the 1970s, under which China liberalized production and trade, has always been piecemeal and partial. (d) The Communist Party does not intend to relinquish a commanding role in the

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economy. It worries about the infiltration of Western ideas. Foreign capital and expertise have therefore been courted and rewarded, but also circumscribed and often resented.

40. According to this author, why is President Xi's comment on self-reliance sound weird?

- a. China has failed to grow exponentially.
- b. China has never failed to achieve the objective of self-sufficiencies.
- c. China benefits greatly from multinational production and trade.
- d. None of the above.

41. Take a closer look at the paragraphs and find the most appropriate placement for the following sentence: "In 2000 China was the biggest merchandise trading partner of only a tiny number of countries."

42. What does the word "trumpet" mean in the second paragraph?

- a. disparage. b. emphasize. c. caution against. d. appreciate.

43. According to this article, how does China feel about foreign capital?

- a. aloof. b. indebted. c. mesmerized. d. conflicted.

When Mount Vesuvius erupted in AD 79, hundreds of people who had failed to flee the nearby city of Pompeii were killed by toxic gases and volcanic debris. Now, an analysis of ancient coins found with skeletons in Pompeii hints at the economic status of those who remained.

Kimberly Bowes at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia analysed more than 25,000 coins found either inside cash boxes or with the remains of Pompeians who died during the eruption. Most boxes were found in commercial spaces and 41% contained only small amounts of cash, indicating that shopkeepers might have carried away most of their savings.

Of about 200 victims carrying coins, roughly half carried small sums in low-value currency. The findings suggest that the richest fled Pompeii before the eruption, leaving behind people who were either enslaved or lower-income. Another explanation for the small sums could be that, rather than amassing money or valuables, most Pompeians preferred to invest in property and to spend their earnings on calorie-rich food and other consumer goods, the author says.

44. According to this article, what are the people who were most likely killed by the eruption?

- a. middle-class. b. landowners. c. poor people. d. royalties.

45. What is the alternative explanation about the findings?

- a. People like to put their money in real estate and sustenance.
- b. commercial activities are less common than previously thought.
- c. Pompeians do not have the culture of carrying a large sum of money.
- d. All of the above.

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Blockchain is a shared, immutable ledger that facilitates the process of recording transactions and tracking assets in a business network. An asset can be tangible (a house, car, cash, land) or intangible (intellectual property, patents, copyrights, branding). Virtually anything of value can be tracked and traded on a blockchain network, reducing risk and cutting costs for all involved.

A simple analogy for understanding blockchain technology is a Google Doc. When we create a document and share it with a group of people, the document is distributed instead of copied or transferred. This creates a decentralized distribution chain that gives everyone access to the document at the same time. No one is locked out awaiting changes from another party, while all modifications to the doc are being recorded in real-time, making changes completely transparent.

Why is blockchain important? Business runs on information. The faster it's received and the more accurate it is, the better. Blockchain is ideal for delivering that information because it provides immediate, shared and completely transparent information stored on an immutable ledger that can be accessed only by permissioned network members. A blockchain network can track orders, payments, accounts, production and much more. And because members share a single view of the truth, you can see all details of a transaction end to end, giving you greater confidence, as well as new efficiencies and opportunities.

46. How does the Google Doc example help the reader understand "decentralized distribution"?
- All users are equal.
  - All users have to wait in line to access the information.
  - Users can lock each other out from the information.
  - All users with access can view and edit the shared information.

47. Which of the following is a benefit of blockchain transactions, according to these passages?
- immutability.
  - speed.
  - transparency.
  - all of the above.

When life emerged, it did so quickly. Fossils suggest microbes were present 3.7 billion years ago, just a few hundred million years after the 4.5-billion-year-old planet had cooled enough to support biochemistry, and many researchers think the hereditary material for these first organisms was RNA. Although not as complex as DNA, RNA would still be difficult to forge into the long strands needed to convey genetic information, raising the question of how it could have spontaneously formed.

Now, researchers may have an answer. In lab experiments, they show how rocks called basaltic glasses help individual RNA letters, known as nucleoside triphosphates, link into strands up to 200 letters long. The glasses would have been abundant in the fire and brimstone of early Earth; they are created when lava is quenched in air or water or when the melted rock created in asteroid strikes cools off rapidly.

The result has divided top origin-of-life researchers. "This seems to be a wonderful story that finally explains how the nucleoside triphosphates react with each other to give RNA strands,"



says Thomas Carell, a chemist at Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich. But Jack Szostak, an RNA expert at Harvard University, says he won't believe the result until the research team better characterizes the RNA strands.

48. How long has passed between the birth of the Earth and the start of life?  
a. 80 trillion years. b. 8 trillion years. c. 80 million years. d. 800 million years.

49. Why is it important to explain the origin of RNA in the search for the origin of life?  
a. Its complexity demands a theory.  
b. RNA is found in ancient glass shards.  
c. RNA is the energy source for primordial life forms.  
d. RNA is more structurally complicated than DNA.

50. How do the top scientists in the search for the origin of life feel about the discovery described in the article?  
a. Everyone thinks this is true.  
b. Everyone thinks this is false.  
c. Some scientists are doubtful.  
d. Some scientists are scared.