

※ 注意：請用 2B 鉛筆作答於答案卡，並先詳閱答案卡上之「畫記說明」。

I. Vocabulary Definition (20%)

For each word, choose the most applicable definition out of five available options to the right.

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| 1. Fall | (A) To stand as a candidate in an election. |
| 2. Uncanny | (B) To be captured or defeated. |
| 3. Run | (C) To happen or occur infrequently and irregularly. |
| 4. Illustrate | (D) To serve as an example of something. |
| 5. Odd | (E) Unsettlingly strange or mysterious, even somewhat frightening. |
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| 6. Sack | (A) To plunder and destroy. |
| 7. Ape | (B) To imitate in an unthinking manner. |
| 8. Mind | (C) To regard as important or feel concerned about. |
| 9. Match | (D) To be placed in competition with another. |
| 10. Sense | (E) A faculty by which the body perceives an external stimulus. |

II. Vocabulary Cloze (40%)

For each question, choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

11. The ____ in the stock market reflected the booming global market.
(A) surge
(B) acceleration
(C) plunge
(D) deceleration
12. Complete the following line from a famous poem:
"Two roads ____ in a yellow wood,"
(A) divested
(B) diverged
(C) digested
(D) divided
13. "Next stop, Leicester Square; ____ here for the Piccadilly Line."
(A) delight
(B) aboard
(C) alight
(D) onboard
14. Preliminary ____ have been conducted in this morning's legislative committee.
(A) tactics
(B) discussions
(C) strategies
(D) narrations
15. The apocalyptic theme is the main ____ of this movie franchise.
(A) option
(B) aperture
(C) obscuration
(D) feature

16. The Saint Basil's Cathedral, ____ in the Red Square, is mainly red in color.
(A) bridged
(B) fabricated
(C) erected
(D) obliterated
17. The Himeji Castle has a ____ outlook with a primarily white color scheme, which is why it is also called the "White Heron Castle".
(A) stunning
(B) debilitating
(C) deprecating
(D) semantical
18. "Clank" often describes the sound of two or more metallic objects ____ each other.
(A) striking
(B) dampening
(C) depleting
(D) scraping
19. Ra was the ____ of the sun in ancient Egyptian culture.
(A) perambulator
(B) progenitor
(C) calamity
(D) deity
20. "Brass" is a common metallic alloy, and the term is often used a slang for the upper ____ of police officers.
(A) pylon
(B) decathlon
(C) echelon
(D) eidolon
21. *Elden Ring*, an incredibly popular FromSoftware title, featuring the involvement of G. R. R. Martin, of *A Game of Thrones* fame, had a ____ wave of fandom as the expansion, *Shadow of the Erdtree*, hit the market.
(A) revitalizing
(B) decapitalizing
(C) energizing
(D) overwhelming
22. *Stellar Blade* suffered a serious ____ from fans when the developer was suspected of censorship upon its release.
(A) revenge
(B) oppression
(C) backlash
(D) whiplash
23. In recent years, lawsuits between Microsoft and Sony, two of the major console holders, have caused both companies to ____ a large amount of legal fees.
(A) purchase
(B) separate
(C) depart
(D) hemorrhage

24. The storyline of *Black Myth: Wukong*, one of the most anticipated titles in 2024, appears to be a very loose ____ of the famous Ming dynasty novel, *Journey to the West*.
(A) arbitration
(B) adaptation
(C) deliberation
(D) indentation
25. With the growing success of hits such as *Hades*, *Slay the Spire*, and *Balatro*, the rouge-like genre is becoming increasingly ____.
(A) succulent
(B) omnipotent
(C) decadent
(D) prevalent
26. Charlie Theron expressed explicit interest in participating in the prequel to *Mad Max: Fury Road*, and was ____ to find that the younger version of her character would be played by Anya Taylor Jones, the star of *Queen's Gambit*.
(A) overjoyed
(B) polarized
(C) dismayed
(D) boisterous
27. Many lifelong fans were so utterly disappointed with *The Last Jedi*, that they ____ the next Star Wars movie, *Solo*, making it a box office disaster.
(A) boycotted
(B) convalesced
(C) rebelled
(D) imperialized
28. Rebooting the *Star Trek* on the big screen with the Kelvin Timeline caused ____ reactions among the fans as they either welcomed or rejected the idea of iconic figures, such as Captain Kirk and Spock, being played by completely different actors.
(A) scintillating
(B) prosperous
(C) ambivalent
(D) engrossed
29. The 100th anniversary of Disney was celebrated with the movie *Wish*, whose ____ reception and performance on top of a score of only 5.6 on IMDB cast a questionable light on the marketing decisions of their top executives.
(A) nefarious
(B) munificence
(C) pontificating
(D) lackluster
30. One of Keanu Reeves's most memorable characters, Neo (*The Matrix*), was ____ resurrected almost two decades after his death in the third movie. Many people believed this was only done to prolong the dying franchise.
(A) unceremoniously
(B) oscillatorily
(C) sacrificially
(D) satirically

III. Cloze (20%)

Choose the most appropriate word(s) to complete each blank in the following text.

It is interesting to contemplate a tangled bank, clothed 31 many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting 32, and with worms crawling through the damp earth, and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other, and dependent 33 each other in so complex a manner, have all been produced by laws acting around us. These laws, taken 34 the largest sense, 35 Growth with reproduction; Inheritance which is almost implied by reproduction; Variability from the indirect and direct action of the conditions of life, and from use and disuse; a Ratio 36 Increase so high as to lead to a Struggle 37 Life, and as a consequence to Natural Selection, entailing Divergence of Character and the Extinction of less improved forms. Thus, from the war of nature, from famine and death, the 38 exalted object which we are capable of conceiving, namely, the production of the higher animals, directly follows. There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed 39 the Creator into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone circling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being 40.

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| 31. (A) with | (B) to | (C) on | (D) at |
| 32. (A) again | (B) about | (C) among | (D) akimbo |
| 33. (A) at | (B) upon | (C) with | (D) by |
| 34. (A) to | (B) of | (C) out | (D) in |
| 35. (A) being | (B) been | (C) do | (D) have |
| 36. (A) to | (B) of | (C) out | (D) in |
| 37. (A) from | (B) with | (C) for | (D) by |
| 38. (A) least | (B) mediocre | (C) more | (D) most |
| 39. (A) at | (B) upon | (C) with | (D) by |
| 40. (A) involved | (B) dissolved | (C) evolved | (D) resolved |

IV. Comprehension (20%)

Read the following text and select the best answers for each question. The paragraph numbers are provided on the right.

Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband's death. 1

It was her sister Josephine who told her, in broken sentences; veiled hints that revealed in half concealing. Her husband's friend Richards was there, too, near her. It was he who had been in the newspaper office when intelligence of the railroad disaster was received, with Brently Mallard's name leading the list of "killed." He had only taken the time to assure himself of its truth by a second telegram, and had hastened to forestall any less careful, less tender friend in bearing the sad message. 2

She did not hear the story as many women have heard the same, with a paralyzed inability to accept its significance. She wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment, in her sister's arms. When the storm of grief had spent itself she went away to her room alone. She would have no one follow her. 3

There stood, facing the open window, a comfortable, roomy armchair. Into this she sank, pressed down by a physical exhaustion that haunted her body and seemed to reach into her soul. 4

She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all aquiver with the new spring life. The delicious breath of rain was in the air. In the 5

street below a peddler was crying his wares. The notes of a distant song which some one was singing reached her faintly, and countless sparrows were twittering in the eaves.

There were patches of blue sky showing here and there through the clouds that had met and piled one above the other in the west facing her window. 6

She sat with her head thrown back upon the cushion of the chair, quite motionless, except when a sob came up into her throat and shook her, as a child who has cried itself to sleep continues to sob in its dreams. 7

She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression and even a certain strength. But now there was a dull stare in her eyes, whose gaze was fixed away off yonder on one of those patches of blue sky. It was not a glance of reflection, but rather indicated a suspension of intelligent thought. 8

There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully. What was it? She did not know; it was too subtle and elusive to name. But she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching toward her through the sounds, the scents, the color that filled the air. 9

Now her bosom rose and fell tumultuously. She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will—as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been. When she abandoned herself a little whispered word escaped her slightly parted lips. She said it over and over under the breath: “free, free, free!” The vacant stare and the look of terror that had followed it went from her eyes. They stayed keen and bright. Her pulses beat fast, and the coursing blood warmed and relaxed every inch of her body. 10

She did not stop to ask if it were or were not a monstrous joy that held her. A clear and exalted perception enabled her to dismiss the suggestion as trivial. She knew that she would weep again when she saw the kind, tender hands folded in death; the face that had never looked save with love upon her, fixed and gray and dead. But she saw beyond that bitter moment a long procession of years to come that would belong to her absolutely. And she opened and spread her arms out to them in welcome. 11

There would be no one to live for during those coming years; she would live for herself. There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of illumination. 12

And yet she had loved him--sometimes. Often she had not. What did it matter! What could love, the unsolved mystery, count for in the face of this possession of self-assertion which she suddenly recognized as the strongest impulse of her being! 13

“Free! Body and soul free!” she kept whispering. 14

Josephine was kneeling before the closed door with her lips to the keyhole, imploring for admission. “Louise, open the door! I beg; open the door--you will make yourself ill. What are you doing, Louise? For heaven's sake open the door.” 15

“Go away. I am not making myself ill.” No; she was drinking in a very elixir of life through that open window. 16

Her fancy was running riot along those days ahead of her. Spring days, and summer days, and all sorts of days that would be her own. She breathed a quick prayer that life might be long. It was only yesterday she had thought with a shudder that life might be long. 17

She arose at length and opened the door to her sister's importunities. There was a feverish triumph in her eyes, and she carried herself unwittingly like a goddess of Victory. She clasped her sister's waist, and together they descended the stairs. Richards stood waiting for them at the bottom. 18

Some one was opening the front door with a latchkey. It was Brently Mallard who entered, a little travel-stained, composedly carrying his grip-sack and umbrella. He had been far from the scene of the accident, and did not even know there had been one. He stood amazed at Josephine's piercing cry; at Richards' quick motion to screen him from the view of his wife. 19

When the doctors came they said she had died of heart disease—of the joy that kills. 20

41. What manner of text is this?
(A) a technical manual
(B) a political address
(C) a critical review
(D) a fictional story
42. What historical era does this text belong to?
(A) Medieval period
(B) Twenty-first century
(C) Nineteenth century
(D) Stone age
43. Why does Josephine hesitate in delivering the bad news in paragraph 2?
(A) She fears being blamed.
(B) She is concerned for her sister's weak heart.
(C) She cannot find the proper words.
(D) She is heartbroken herself.
44. What is the most likely profession for Richards?
(A) a reporter (B) a telegrapher (C) a mortician (D) a train conductor
45. How does Mrs. Mallard initially receive the news of her husband's death?
(A) secretly heartbroken
(B) grieves openly
(C) complete denial
(D) sarcastically unbelieving
46. In paragraphs 9-10, what is the frightful entity coming to possess Mrs. Mallard?
(A) a poltergeist of polemics
(B) the essence of emancipation
(C) a demon of despondency
(D) the ghost of generosity
47. In paragraph 11, why does the author use the oxymoron, "monstrous joy"?
(A) because Mrs. Mallard is as happy as a monster
(B) because Mrs. Mallard feels bad for feeling good
(C) because Mrs. Mallard's joy is unaccepted by her society
(D) because Mrs. Mallard's joy is trivial

48. How does Brentley Mallard usually treat his wife?
(A) with despise and contempt
(B) with fear and loathing
(C) with love and kindness
(D) with care and caresses
49. What is the meaning of "importunities" in paragraph 18?
(A) importance
(B) opportunities
(C) kneeling
(D) persistence
50. What is the overall tone of the ending?
(A) sympathetic
(B) satirical
(C) apathetic
(D) consolatory