

I. Vocabulary and Phrase (20%)

Choose the best answer to complete each of the questions.

1. AI is rapidly becoming part of the _____ of our daily lives as it moves out of academia and research labs and into the real world.
A) apparel B) fabric C) porcelain D) cuisine
2. It was observed in *The Guardian* that _____ of social media to interfere with national politics by foreign as well as domestic actors is now the new normal.
A) strangulation B) glorification C) manipulation D) devastation
3. Mary McNamara was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her savvy criticism that uses shrewdness, humor, and an insider's view to show how both subtle and _____ shifts in the cultural landscape affect television.
A) auspicious B) cloistered C) parsimonious D) seismic
4. One writer argued that the debate about Marie Kondo's books and methods has classist and racist _____ that can't be ignored.
A) undertones B) transactions C) synonyms D) notifications
5. Researchers in China reported that they have created cloned monkeys, the first time that _____ have been cloned with the technique that produced Dolly the sheep more than 20 years ago.
A) rodents B) amphibians C) primates D) reptiles
6. As one commentator noted in *The New Yorker*, Rachel Cusk's autofiction reflects her _____ of the novel's traditional building blocks—character, plot, description, etc.—as fake and embarrassing.
A) satisfaction B) abdication C) mystification D) repudiation
7. A _____, a vote in which everyone (or nearly everyone) of voting age can take part, was held on Thursday, June 23rd, 2016, to decide whether the UK should leave or remain in the European Union.
A) transition B) referendum C) forfeiture D) penalty
8. Reviewing the third season of the TV show *True Detective*, one critic wrote that it shakes off the misfire of season 2 in a return to _____.
A) name B) truth C) back D) form
9. Because of her experiences, Joan believes that she knows a thing or _____ about suffering.
A) things B) two C) more D) double
10. "Neither here nor _____" is a term that can be used to describe anything that's immaterial or irrelevant.
A) there B) where C) now D) then

II. Sentence Structure (20%)

Choose the best answer to complete each of questions.

11. Who is the woman _____ book you borrowed?
A) whom B) to whom's C) who's D) whose
12. He is not very rich. He has very _____ belongings.
A) few B) a few C) little D) a little
13. Vivian's parents asked us when _____ leaving.
A) were we B) we were C) did we D) we did
14. _____ the boy said was not very polite.
A) How B) What C) Which D) Why
15. _____ she was always ready to give a helping hand did not go unnoticed by her teachers.
A) If B) Who C) What D) That
16. _____ you been shown to your new office?
A) Would B) Were C) Have D) Did

17. The teacher said to her students: "Please write a 300-word essay, _____ in mind that conciseness is a virtue."
 A) to keep B) be keep C) keeping D) is keeping
18. John said that even though his job is boring, he is never _____.
 A) depressed B) depression C) depressive D) depress
19. _____ the traffic jam, we arrived at the airport on time.
 A) In spite of B) In spite by C) In spite of D) In spiting of
20. If I _____ you needed help, I would have given you a hand.
 A) have known B) had known C) were known D) would known

III. Cloze Test (40%)

Choose the best answer for each of the blanks in the following excerpted passages.

Passage I

The "model minority" label __21__ structural inequality in the U.S. In the context of the ongoing civil rights __22__ in the 1960s, when other minority groups were demanding equality and social justice, the success of some minority groups sent a romantic message: the American Dream is possible, despite a history of __23__ and discrimination, as long as one had the right kind of character and culture. The American Dream didn't demand a systematic overhaul or __24__ of resources; it simply demanded the right culture. It also __25__ poverty that existed in other minority communities. Other peoples of color — such as African-Americans — were blamed for lacking such strong cultural characteristics: being "lazy," "violent," sometimes even "primitive."

21. A) legitimized B) restricted C) upgraded D) suggested
22. A) faction B) activation C) realignment D) movement
23. A) extension B) oppression C) stimulation D) constriction
24. A) reformation B) remission C) redistribution D) rejection
25. A) justified B) considered C) united D) recommended

Passage II

No one truly needs a domestic garage to park a car; space is available, if not __26__, on city streets. So why do garages exist? The reason may have nothing to do with parking. In their recent book, "Garage," Olivia Erlanger, an artist, and Luis Ortega Goveia, an architect, coin a term, "garageification," which describes a strange excrescence, initially unrelated to the central functions of the home, acquiring a life of its own and beginning to blend previously separate realms. Garages were, of course, designed to __27__ cars. But they soon became much more: storage spaces, offices, man __28__. Entire companies were __29__ in a garage, and several styles of music were named after it. The authors of "Garage" locate themselves in the tradition of the German critic Walter Benjamin, who speculated for more than a thousand pages on Paris shopping arcades as __30__ of the nineteenth century. For Erlanger and Ortega Goveia, who speculate with more brevity, the garage is a latter-day arcade, a symbol of modernity—or maybe postmodernity.

26. A) reluctantly B) realistically C) relatively D) readily
27. A) magnify B) house C) attract D) conserve
28. A) tunnels B) holes C) caves D) corners
29. A) concocted B) concentrated C) conjectured D) condemned
30. A) amulets B) mascots C) emblems D) devices

Passage III

Yeoh's Cantonese was bad, she knew, and she couldn't even read Chinese—but that didn't matter, because the movies were written __31__. Shoots would end Wednesday, in time for a Friday film release. Safety standards in Hong Kong at the time were also lax; Yeoh did stunts on __32__ motorcycles without fully knowing how to operate them. When she and Chan were promoting a movie together, the American press assumed scenes they'd shot on a moving train had been filmed in front of a green

screen—because they looked too __33__ dangerous to be real stunts. In another scene, Yeoh had to pull out a gun and aim it through the open window of a car door; the only direction she was given was “power!” She __34__ her forearm into the door so many times that the director eventually halted the scene—thinking that the bruises __35__ on her skin was dirt that needed to be washed off.

31. A) on the side B) on the cloud C) on the wall D) on the fly
 32. A) revving B) reviving C) revising D) revealing
 33. A) passively B) patently C) decreasingly D) discriminately
 34. A) dipped B) entered C) slammed D) brushed
 35. A) blooming B) withering C) splashing D) dripping

Passage IV

Once again, the country seems divided. This time, it's not a border wall or a health care proposal driving the __36__, but an online ad for a men's razor. But underneath the controversy lies something much more important: signs of real change. On January 13, Gillette released a new ad that takes the company's 30-year-old slogan, “The Best a Man Can Get,” and turns it into an __37__ reflection on toxic masculinity very much of this cultural moment. Titled “We Believe,” the nearly two-minute video features a diverse cast of boys getting bullied, of teens watching media representatives of macho guys __38__ women, and of men looking into the mirror while news reports of #MeToo and toxic masculinity play in the background. A voiceover asks “Is this the best a man can get?” The answer is no, and the film shows how men can do better by actively pointing out toxic behavior, __39__ when other men catcall or sexually harass, and helping protect their children from bullies. The ad blew up; as of Wednesday afternoon it has more than 12 million views on YouTube, and #GilletteAd has trended on Twitter nationwide. Parents across Facebook shared the YouTube link in __40__, many mentioning how the ad brought them to tears.

36. A) animation B) anonymity C) animus D) animals
 37. A) incognito B) introspective C) illusory D) illicit
 38. A) quantifying B) objectifying C) identifying D) purifying
 39. A) intervening B) inventing C) inscribing D) initiating
 40. A) litters B) herds C) pods D) droves

IV. Reading Comprehension (20%)

Read the passages and select the best answer for each question.

Passage I

Few areas of science are as littered with intellectual rubbish as the study of innate mental differences between the sexes. In the 19th century, biologists held that a woman's brain was too small for intellect but large enough for household chores. When the tiny-brain theory bit the dust (elephants, after all, have bigger brains than men), scientists began a long, fruitless attempt to locate the biological basis of male superiority in various brain lobes and chromosomes. By the 1960s sociobiologists were asserting that natural selection, operating throughout the long human prehistory of hunting and gathering, had predisposed males to leadership and exploration and females to crouching around the campfire with the kids.

Recent studies suggest that there may be some real differences after all. And why not? We have different hormones and body parts; it would be odd if our brains were a hundred percent unisex. The question, as ever, is, What do these differences augur for our social roles?—meaning, in particular, the division of power and opportunity between the sexes.

Don't look to the Flintstones for an answer. However human beings whiled away their first 100,000 or so years of existence, few of us today make a living by tracking down mammoths or digging up tasty roots. In fact, much of our genetic legacy of sex differences has already been rendered moot by that uniquely human invention: technology. Military prowess no longer depends on superior musculature or those bursts of aggressive fury that prime the body for combat at ax range. As for exploration, women—with their lower body weight and oxygen consumption—may be the more “natural” astronauts.

But suppose that the feminists' worst-case scenario turns out to be true, and that males really are better, on average, at certain mathematical tasks. If this tempts you to shunt the girls all back to Home Ec—the only acceptable realm for would-be female scientists eighty years ago—you probably need remedial work on the statistics of “averages” yourself. Just as some women are taller

and stronger than some men, some are swifter at solid geometry and abstract algebra. Many of the pioneers in the field of X-ray crystallography—which involves three-dimensional visualization and heavy doses of math—were female, including biophysicist Rosalyn Franklin, whose work was indispensable to the discovery of the double-helical structure of DNA.

Then there is the problem that haunts all studies of “innate” sex differences: the possibility that the observed differences are really the result of lingering cultural factors—pushing females, for example, to “succeed” by dummied up. Girls’ academic achievement, for example, usually takes a nosedive at puberty. Unless nature has selected for smart girls and dumb women, something is going very wrong at about the middle-school level. Part of the problem may be that males, having been the dominant sex for a few millennia, still tend to prefer females who make them feel stronger and smarter. Any girl who is bright enough to solve a quadratic equation is also smart enough to bat her eyelashes and pretend she can’t.

Teachers too may play a larger role than nature in differentiating the sexes. Studies show that they tend to favor boys by calling on them more often, making eye contact with them more frequently, and pushing them harder to perform. Myra and David Sadker, professors of education at American University, have found that girls do better when teachers are sensitized to gender bias and refrain from sexist language such as the use of “man” to mean all of us. Single-sex classes in math and science also boost female performance, presumably by eliminating favoritism and male disapproval of female achievement.

The success, so far, of such simple educational reforms only underscores the basic social issue: given that there may be real innate mental differences between the sexes, what are we going to do about them? A female advantage in reading emotions could be interpreted to mean that males should be barred from psychiatry—or that they need more coaching. A male advantage in math could be used to confine girls to essays and sonnets—or the decision could be made to compensate by putting more effort into girls’ math education. In effect, we already compensate for boys’ apparent handicap in verbal skills by making reading the centerpiece of grade-school education.

We are cultural animals, and these are cultural decisions of the kind that our genes can’t make for us. In fact, the whole discussion of innate sex differences is itself heavily shaped by cultural factors. Why, for example, is the study of innate differences such a sexy, well-funded topic right now, which happens to be a time of organized feminist challenge to the ancient sexual division of power? Why do the media tend to get excited when scientists find an area of difference, and ignore the many reputable studies that come up with no differences at all?

Whatever science eventually defines it as, *la différence* can be amplified or minimized by human cultural arrangements: the choice is up to us, not our genes.

41. The Flintstones are characters in an American animated show. But even without having watched the show, what can be inferred about the Flintstones from paragraph 3?
- A) They lived a very long time ago.
 - B) They invented technology.
 - C) They were a family of astronauts.
 - D) They answered the question about power and opportunity between sexes.
42. What is the author’s point in paragraph 4?
- A) Rosalyn Franklin is a feminist.
 - B) Each individual has strengths and weaknesses.
 - C) Home Ec is the type of science that females invented eighty years ago.
 - D) Women had a difficult time understanding the statistics of averages.
43. According to the author in paragraph 5, why does girls’ academic achievement take a nosedive at puberty?
- A) Because it is natural for girls to be smarter when they are younger.
 - B) Because nosedive is a disease that affects many adolescent girls.
 - C) Because puberty is a math skill boys are better at.
 - D) Because teenage girls may pretend to be less smart in order to be attractive to boys.

44. Which of the following is discussed by the author as one of the ways in which teachers influence the academic achievement of male and female students?
- A) Teachers are better role models for girls.
 - B) Teachers often give more attention to boys.
 - C) Teachers are less concerned about girls' poor attendance.
 - D) Teachers do not participate in parent-teacher conferences.
45. What is a possible reason why the author used the French *la différence* in the last paragraph instead of the English "differences"?
- A) To demonstrate her mastery of French.
 - B) To appeal to readers who speak French.
 - C) Because the English-language does not have an equivalent for this French concept.
 - D) To emphasize her point about the study of innate differences being a sexy topic.

Passage II

"I think we're going to serve McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King, with some pizza," Donald Trump told the press in an interview on Monday morning, discussing the White House's planned banquet that night for the Clemson University Tigers, in celebration of their victory in this year's N.C.A.A. football championship. "I really mean it. It will be interesting. And I would think that's their favorite food. So we'll see what happens." As with so many Trump promises, it could have been just a gust of wind. So it was something of a surprise—a small, mild surprise, like a sudden itch on the sole of your foot—when, on Monday night, the photos began to roll out of Trump grinning behind a mahogany dining table arranged with silver trays bearing stacked boxes of Filet-o-Fishes and Quarter Pounders, and McNuggets, and a few dozen of something in paper wrappers from Wendy's, and piles of anonymous-looking salads, and a couple of pizzas, and Burger King fries that some hapless aides had decanted into paper cups bearing the Presidential seal.

Far be it from me to defend any of Trump's choices, but serving a meal of fast food at a fancy gathering is not inherently a bad idea. In fact, it can be wonderful. A few dozen wings and thighs from Popeyes or a Chick-fil-A nugget tray make for a festive dinner-party centerpiece. Shake Shack-catered weddings are all over Pinterest. No less glittery an event than the *Vanity Fair* Oscar party has served In-N-Out burgers to its throngs of the gorgeous and powerful. There is, at many of these occasions, an element of class-based pantomime—for guests invited to eat fast-food burgers in a designer dress, it's the fast food that is presented as a novelty, not the couture. But the culinary pleasures are real: fried chicken, famously, only gets more delicious as it cools down, and, if you hire In-N-Out and Shake Shack to do the catering at your event, they show up in person and sling their burgers fresh.

Trump's bulk order, on the other hand, was a dinner fighting against the odds. One imagines those poor sandwiches steaming limply inside their cardboard boxes on the drive to the White House, and during the fuss over arranging them on their silver platters (with sauces sorted by type and piled high in silver gravy boats) and properly lighting the gilded candelabra. Then came the photo shoot: Trump, centered beneath a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, flinging his arms out behind this table of quick-serve abundance, in a gesture that's equal parts ownership and invitation. There is a particular awfulness to McDonald's or Burger King once it's gone cold. By the time America's greatest collegiate football players arrived, in their navy blazers and Sunday shoes, to pick up porcelain plates and work their way through this cardboard buffet, the French fries would have grown cold and mealy, the burger buns soggy, the precise half slice of American cheese on each Filet-o-Fish sandwich hardened to a tough, flavorless rectangle of yellow.

Trump's affinity for fast food has been well documented since the earliest days of his public life. In the nineties and early two-thousands, he filmed commercials for Pizza Hut and McDonald's. On the campaign trail, at a televised CNN town hall, he explained to Anderson Cooper that he enjoyed "a fish delight," referring to the Filet-o-Fish. He continued, "The Big Macs are great. The Quarter Pounder. It's great stuff." Trump seemed to relish posing with fast food, especially the winking high-low of Instagram photos of himself eating value meals on his private plane: here's Donald Trump grinning with a bucket of K.F.C., there's Donald Trump grinning with a Big Mac and a cardboard sleeve of fries. His former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski wrote, in "Let Trump Be Trump," his book chronicling the campaign, that "on Trump Force One there were four major food groups: McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, pizza, and Diet Coke," and that his boss's go-to McDonald's order was two Big Macs, two Filet-o-Fishes,

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and a chocolate milkshake. (After a horrified outcry, Lewandowski clarified that the 2,630-calorie meal is more healthful than it appears, because Trump makes a point of removing the buns.) After taking office, according to a Politico report, Trump reportedly preferred a McDonald's Quarter Pounder with cheese (lots of ketchup, no pickles) to the White House kitchen staff's iteration.

Trump, in typical form, spun Monday's catering as ultimately the fault of his political opponents, an inevitable result of his own elective government shutdown, which has left hundreds of thousands of federal employees furloughed—including, presumably, the White House kitchen staff. Trump, a purported billionaire, made a big deal out of the fact that he paid for the fast food out of his own pocket. But we might wonder if there is also something more pure in his decision to bring in a drive-through feast for the history books: an attempt, however opportunistic, for a man who loves fast food to fulfill his straightforward desires—a gilded hall filled with as many fried and griddled patties as money can buy, more Filet-o-Fishes and Quarter Pounders than one body could possibly consume, the teetering towers a quantifiable testament to his Presidential power. "We went out and we ordered American fast food, paid for by me," Trump boasted to the reporters gathered before the fast-food spread, grinning his fast-food grin beneath a brooding portrait of Abraham Lincoln, painted in 1869, by George Peter Alexander Healy, and praised by Lincoln's eldest son as the greatest likeness ever captured of the man. "Lots of hamburgers, lots of pizza. Three hundred hamburgers. Many, many French fries."

46. What does the author mean by the underlined sentence in paragraph 1?
- A) Trump may not always keep his promises.
 - B) Trump's promises are always as powerful as a gust of wind.
 - C) Wind is an important part of Trump's environmental policy.
 - D) Trump once promised to develop wind power but did not keep his promise.
47. In paragraph 2, what was the author's point in mentioning *Vanity Fair's* Oscar party?
- A) Oscar winners usually enjoy fast food.
 - B) Serving fast food may not necessarily be a bad idea if implemented properly.
 - C) In-N-Out burgers are too expensive for normal people.
 - D) Fried chicken should always be served hot.
48. Why did the author mention the portrait of Abraham Lincoln in paragraphs 3 and 5?
- A) To suggest the role played by Lincoln in Trump's presidency.
 - B) To demonstrate that Lincoln is considered irrelevant by Trump.
 - C) To remind readers that Lincoln is considered the father of fast food.
 - D) To ask the question: What would Lincoln have thought about this?
49. What is the author's main purpose in writing this article?
- A) To explain one specific type of American food.
 - B) To demonstrate her knowledge of the variety of fast food.
 - C) To discuss her opinions on Trump's fast food banquet.
 - D) To suggest the connection between Abraham Lincoln and In-N-Out burgers.
50. Did the author support Trump's methods of serving fast food on the particular occasion discussed?
- A) No.
 - B) Yes.
 - C) Only in the beginning.
 - D) She changed her mind in the end.