

I. Vocabulary and Grammar (70%): Select the best answer

1. Which expression is not usually used in a conference room? A) Without further ado, I give you our speaker. B) Now the floor is open C) Will you say grace for us? D) Did I answer your question?
2. On the verge of losing his patience, the instructor urged the student to come to the point since the latter has been rambling on without evident _____. A) relating B) relations C) relevance D) resilience
3. Gordon decided to shift tracks and pursue a culinary career, _____ find dismal prospects in the job market. A) due to B) only to C) no sooner D) rather than
4. In the sentence above, "culinary" refers to things related to A) biology B) academy C) broadcasting D) cooking.
5. Unfortunately, she ran into a car accident _____ she received her driver's license. A) while B) until C) as soon as D) momentarily
6. _____ had the air-raid alarm ended _____ the citizens fled the shelter.
A) No sooner / when B) No sooner / than C) Hardly /then D) so / that
7. You _____ join us on the volunteer team in Africa, but you _____ if you like.
A) shouldn't / were able to B) mustn't / needn't C) can't / shouldn't
D) needn't / can
8. The recent spate of online condemnations reminds her _____ a traumatic experience of sexual harassment. A) for B) of C) with D) through
9. _____ his atrocious grades in the undergraduate program, Peter succeeded in being admitted to the graduate institute.
A) Although B) Despite C) In spite D) Owing to
10. Which word is not related to number 3? A) thrice B) triple C) twice D) tertiary
11. If voting against a proposal at a meeting means voting in the negative, then voting for a proposal means voting in the _____. A) complying B) approving C) affirmative D) positive
12. Which verb is hardly ever followed by preposition "to"? A) consist B) appeal C) lead D) contribute
13. Pick the most common expression: As the clock is ticking, the rescue team is _____ against time to salvage the missing residents. A) jogging B) racing C) matching D) contesting
14. Which is inappropriate? The CEO acknowledged the retiring employee's contributions to the company as highly _____.
A) valuable B) invaluable C) valueless D) priceless.
15. "_____ the platform gap," and "Please stay _____ of closing door" are signs everywhere to be seen at Taipei MRT subway stations. A) Heed/ clean B) Attention/ cleanse C) Mind/ clear D) Notice/ close
16. If "olfactory" corresponds to the sense of smell, which adjective has the wrong correspondence? A) tactile: touch B) gustatory: taste C) oral: hearing D) visual: sight
17. Whenever the election is around the corner, one will be bombarded by candidates _____ insults with one another on controversial issues. A) changing B) trading C) peddling D) offering
18. Theodore Roosevelt was _____ as the 26th President of the United States upon the assassination of William McKinley. A) sworn in B) taken swear C) swearing by D) inaugurated in
19. Pick the best word. Under fire for the corruption scandal, the minister apologized and _____ reform. A) swore B) assured C) vowed D) confirmed
20. Pick the best word. The coach benched his star pitcher for _____ routine practice. A) jumping B) skipping C) hopping D) leaping
21. Before going out of business, the local hardware store offered a stock _____ sale, declaring: Everything Must _____.
A) cleaning/ Move B) clear/ Leave C) clean/ Gone D) clearance/ Go
22. The _____ stated policy indicates that the judging criteria will prize the contestant's _____ style more than prior _____ achievements. A) distinctly/ distinctive/distinguished B) distinctively/distinguished/ distinct C) distinguishedly/ distinct/distinctive D) distinct/ distinguished/distinctive
23. The five people who have been missing since going on a deep sea dive destined for the Titanic shipwreck _____, officials said. A) believe to be dead B) believe to have been dead C) are believe to die D) are believed to have died
24. Pick the best word. Neither moral persuasion nor threats to raise penalties seem to have _____ numerous drivers' reckless driving at the crosswalk. A) disturbed B) deterred C) determined D) degraded
25. New zebra crossing designs aim not only to improve but _____ maximum pedestrian safety. A) assure B) ensure C) insure D) prove

26. Select the most common usage: Even though the businessman has sustained considerable financial losses recently, he honored his promise of donation to show he remains a man of _____. A) his word B) words C) his promises D) his honor
27. Highly principled and trustworthy, he values _____ above all else. A) intelligence B) diligence C) integrity D) intellect
28. To many Europeans, Taiwan is _____ known as Formosa. A) formally B) formerly C) previous D) prior
29. Which differs from the others in meaning? Between 2004 and 2008, Roger Federer won five _____ US Open singles titles, a feat unmatched by any player in the Open Era. A) successful B) successive C) succeeding D) consecutive
30. Nations already _____ resources will prove more vulnerable in tackling the crisis brought about by climate change. A) lack B) lacking in C) lack of D) in lack
31. Pick the best word. After Steve Jobs died of pancreatic cancer, Mark Zuckerberg's name had been raised in some quarters as a top candidate to continue his tremendous _____. A) inheritance B) heritage C) heir D) legacy
32. The rookie mistook the disheveled boss for the janitor, and he is not _____. A) single B) singular C) alone D) solitary
33. The wife has been left _____ upon discovering that her husband forgot all about their wedding anniversary. A) fuming B) smoking C) heated D) raged
34. Feeling sorry about having forgotten his wife's birthday, Tony sent her a card expressing his _____ good wishes. A) later B) latter C) latest D) belated
35. Janet would habitually keep her _____ when she wished her aspirations could materialize. A) finger crossed B) fingers crossed C) finger crossing D) fingers cross

II. Reading Comprehension (30%): Read the passages and choose the best answer

According to popular beliefs, macarons are considered to be of Italian origin, dating back to the 8th Century. According to legends, the delicacy was introduced to France in 1533 when Catherine de' Medici of Italy married King Henry II of France, and her pastry chefs brought the macaron recipe with them. Back then, these cookies were made from almonds, egg white, and sugar, and called "priest's bellybuttons."

In the 1830s, macarons were assembled as two biscuits and filled with jellies, spices, or liqueurs. The credit of modern macarons goes to Ladurée of Paris, the famed Parisian tea salon, in the early 20th century. At present, this famous luxury pastry shop sells macarons in varieties such as macha tea, salted caramel, chocolate, pistachio, salted caramel, orange blossom, and raspberry. The recipe has not changed since.

These delectable sweets are fast replacing the cupcakes in the United States. Their popularity could be attributed to the fact that they are indulgent, come in different colors and flavors, and have a low-calorie count. Over the years, bakeries specializing in making macarons have mushroomed in retailers of major urban centers.

36. Choose what's incorrect about macarons. A) Began as Italian desserts B) If you want to enjoy them in Paris, always use your credit cards. C) "Priest's bellybuttons" refer to the shape of macaron resembling the umbilicus at the center of abdomen. D) Ladurée offers a great variety of flavors.
37. In the first passage, "According to legends" cannot be replaced by A) It is rumored that B) It is certified that C) It is said that D) It is reported that.
38. Pastry chefs usually do not specialize in A) tarts B) donuts C) puff D) bread.
39. Select the false statement about the dessert. A) Americans increasingly prefer them to cupcakes. B) Consumers are less likely to gain weight C) Such delectable sweets bring bitterness. D) Indulging in them makes consumers feel good.
40. Which is false? If something has mushroomed, its number has A) multiplied B) ballooned C) soared D) precipitated.

Why are dogs so cute? What is it, specifically, about this particular species of animal that humans tend to find so irresistibly charming? Sure they're loyal, and kind, and sometimes whimper to themselves while having nightmares. But what is the actual, scientific basis for our emotional connection to man's best friend?

A new study published recently suggests that dogs' eyes have a lot to do with it—specifically their eyebrows, which allow them to perform complex facial expressions and elicit an emotional response from humans. The study's authors hypothesize that “domestication transformed the facial muscle anatomy of dogs specifically for facial communication with humans”, and that “dogs' expressive eyebrows are the result of selection based on humans' preferences”.

In other words: domestic dogs have evolved the ability to perform facial expressions such as “puppy dog eyes” because it has historically made them more appealing to humans and more likely to be nurtured by them. They have literally evolved to be “cute”.

41. The dogs' eyes partly account for what makes them so A) charming B) loyal C) kind D) particular .
42. What would dogs do when they experience nightmares? A) yawn B) sulk C) whine D) sneeze
43. Choose the correct description. A) Dogs are irresistibly charmed by humans. B) There's hardly any scientific basis for human attraction to dogs. C) Dogs as a species were born with cute eyes to charm humans. D) Dogs' eyes evolved and changed over time to look appealing to humans.
44. It is argued that dogs changed their facial expressions as a result of being A) domestic B) domesticated C) at home D) homey.
45. Pick the improper word: The changes evolved to facilitate human nurturing, in other words, to help humans to A) nourish B) breed C) foster D) raise the dogs.

Literally, a rabbit hole is what the animal digs for its home. The earliest written record of the phrase dates back to the 17th century. But the figurative rabbit hole begins with Lewis Carroll's 1865 classic, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, where Alice follows the White Rabbit into his burrow, which transports her to the strange, surreal, and nonsensical world of Wonderland.

Since then, Carroll's rabbit hole has proved a popular and useful reference. Over much of the 20th century, rabbit hole has been used to characterize bizarre and irrational experiences. It's especially used to reference magical, challenging, and even dangerous places or positions, similar to Carroll's topsy-turvy Wonderland.

Rabbit hole has many metaphorical applications—from frustrating red tape, to the mind-bending complexity of science, to hallucinations during altered states—all united by a common sense of passing into some labyrinthine, logic-defying realm that, once entered, is hard to get out of.

46. Based on the passages above, select the true statement. A) Alice is taken to the Wonderland by a strange transportation. B) The term rabbit hole originated in the 17th century. C) The figurative use of rabbit hole was first found in Carroll's reference book. D) *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is concerned with ancient classics.
47. Pick the most inappropriate answer. Rabbit hole is now often used to suggest _____ situations. A) peculiar B) puzzling C) agreeable D) outlandish
48. The “topsy-turvy Wonderland” points to a place where things are turned A) upside down B) back and forth C) to and fore D) inside out.
49. Which analogy is incorrect? A) red tape: religion B) mind-bending complexity: technology C) hallucinations during altered states: medicine D) *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*: literature
50. Draw the correct conclusion regarding rabbit hole. A) Similar to entering a maze one finds hard to exit. B) It can be downloaded from a number of apps. C) Proves useful when frustrated with red-colored Scotch tape. D) A place which is defined by logic.