

TIẾNG ANH 11
ĐỀ THI ĐỀ XUẤT

ĐỀ THI CHỌN HỌC SINH GIỎI KHU VỰC
DUYÊN HẢI VÀ ĐỒNG BẰNG BẮC BỘ NĂM

2026

MÔN THI: TIẾNG ANH - LỚP: 11

(Thời gian làm bài 180 phút không kể thời gian giao đề)

I. LISTENING (50 points)

- The listening section is in FOUR parts. The recordings of Part 1 and Part 2 will be played **ONCE** only, and the recordings of Part 3 and Part 4 will be played **TWICE**.

Part 1. Listen to a recording ONCE and do the tasks that follow.

For questions 1-5, decide whether each of the following statements is True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG) according to what you hear. Write T, F or NG in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- Insurance companies are currently forcing people to take genetic tests before offering them policies.
- Kathleen O'Connor believes that concerns about genetic discrimination are exaggerated.
- Martin Wheeler argues that genetic testing will eventually make insurance pricing more accurate for everyone.
- Both speakers agree that genetic tests for common diseases will identify health risks in nearly all individuals.
- The government in Britain has already banned over-the-counter genetic testing.

For questions 6 to 10, decide whether the opinions are expressed by only one of the speakers, or whether the speakers agree. In the corresponding numbered boxes provided,

Write **M** for the **Martin** speaker,
 K for the **Kathleen** speaker,
 B for **Both**, where they agree.

- People who have healthy genes will pay less for life insurance.
- There is a fear that people may hide the results of genetic testing from insurers.
- Insurance companies have to make a decision on how they are going to deal with genetic testing.
- Insurance companies shouldn't change the basis on which they issue policies.
- If over-the-counter testing continues, insurance companies will suffer.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

Part 2. Listen to a talk about the nature of spiciness and human responses to it ONCE and do the tasks that follow.

For questions 11-12, choose TWO letters from A- F to indicate TWO true statements about the nature of spiciness. Write your answer in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- Spiciness is classified alongside sweetness and bitterness as a primary taste.
- The sensation of spiciness results from the activation of receptors typically associated with harmful stimuli.
- The burning feeling caused by chili peppers indicates actual tissue damage in the mouth.

- D. The perception of heat from spicy food is neurologically constructed rather than physically real.
- E. Menthol reduces the activity of heat receptors, thereby cooling the body.
- F. Spicy compounds exclusively stimulate receptors located in the oral cavity.

For questions 13-15, choose *THREE* letters from A- G to indicate *THREE* true statements about the variations in spicy sensations. Write your answer in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Choose *THREE* correct answers (A–G).

- A. Differences in spiciness arise primarily from variations in temperature rather than chemical composition.
- B. Alkylamides tend to produce a localized sensation due to their molecular properties.
- C. Isothiocyanates are less volatile, which explains their limited sensory spread.
- D. Certain spicy compounds can migrate beyond the mouth and affect nasal passages.
- E. The distinction between mouth burn and nasal burn is linked to molecular size and mobility.
- F. Wasabi and chili peppers trigger identical sensory pathways but at different intensities.
- G. Heavier molecules are more likely to disperse rapidly through the sinuses.

For questions 16-20, write the letter A, B, C or D in the numbered boxes provided to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions according to what you hear.

16. What is implied about the body's response to spicy food?

- A. It is a mild and localized reaction with no systemic effects
- B. It mimics physiological responses associated with perceived threats
- C. It is primarily a digestive reaction rather than a neurological one
- D. It occurs only when extremely high levels of spice are consumed

17. What can be inferred about the Scoville scale?

- A. It directly measures the temperature of spicy substances
- B. It evaluates how sensitive individuals are to spicy food
- C. It relies on the dilution of a compound until its effect is imperceptible
- D. It compares different spices based on their chemical structure

18. What is suggested about the historical use of spices?

- A. Their original purpose has been definitively established by archaeologists
- B. They were exclusively used for culinary enhancement
- C. Their early use may have served multiple possible functions
- D. They were introduced only after the development of agriculture

19. Why might spicy food be more common in certain regions?

- A. People in colder climates cannot tolerate spicy food
- B. Spices grow naturally only in tropical environments
- C. There may be a connection between environmental conditions and microbial presence
- D. Cultural traditions discourage spice consumption in cooler regions

20. All of the following are suggested about tolerance to spicy food EXCEPT:

- A. Increased exposure reduces the perceived intensity of pain
- B. Individuals may become more accepting of the sensation over time
- C. Preference for spiciness may be linked to personality traits
- D. Enjoyment of spicy food can coexist with the perception of pain

Your answers:

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
16.	17.	18.	19.	20.

Part 3. For questions 21-25, listen to a recording TWICE and answer each of the following questions with no more than TWO words from the recording. Write your answer in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

21. According to the speaker, what measure is used to better reflect differences in living standards between countries?

22. What type of inequality has increased in Ireland despite its high ranking?

23. Which sector in Singapore is mentioned as showing slight declines?

24. What upcoming political-economic event is described as potentially affecting Luxembourg?

25. What natural resource is primarily responsible for Qatar's wealth?

Part 4. For questions 26 -35, listen to a talk about Jupiter TWICE and complete the following summary with no more than ONE word taken from the recording for each space. Write your answer in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Jupiter, formed from primordial (26) _____ approximately 4.5 billion years ago, was the first planet in the solar system and is notable for its immense scale and influence.

Unlike terrestrial planets, it lacks a (27) _____ surface and may not possess a conventionally solid core. Instead, scientists believe it has a dense (28) _____ centre surrounded by gases.

Its atmosphere, around 44 miles thick, contains bands of colour created by differences in (29) _____ makeup, producing a dynamic system of stripes and storms.

One of its most distinctive features is the Great Red Spot, a long-lasting storm with (30) _____ reaching up to 400 miles per hour.

Jupiter is orbited by approximately 79 moons, including the Galilean satellites discovered in 1610. Among them, Ganymede is the largest and even surpasses (31) _____ in size.

Jupiter's powerful gravitational (32) _____ has played a major role in shaping the solar system. In its early stages, the planet attracted and destroyed surrounding (33) _____, limiting the growth of other planets.

Today, this same force acts as a (34) _____, drawing in comets and asteroids and helping to protect inner planets.

As a result of its size and influence, Jupiter is often considered the dominant (35) _____ in the solar system after the Sun.

Your answers:

26.	27.
28.	29.
30.	31.
32.	33.
34.	35.

II. READING (10.0 points)

II.1. LANGUAGE IN USE (3.5 points)

Part 1. For questions 26-35, read the following passage and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits each space. Write the letter A, B, C, or D in the numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet.

As two scientists who lived (26) _____ Australia's black summer bushfires and the Covid-19 crisis in the United States, we have seen firsthand how science in modern societies is under (27) _____ from an even more insidious "antiscience virus" of weaponised disinformation that undermines our ability to confront these crises. There are five primaries, interconnected forces behind the assault on science and reason. We call them the "five Ps": the plutocrats, the petrostates, the pros (e.g. paid promoters of anti-science), the propagandists and – with important exceptions – the media. Together they have generated a (28) _____ of antiscientific disinformation that now threatens humanity.

A (29) _____ web of actors including plutocrats in the US and Australia, along with libertarian tech bros, and petrostates such as Russia and Saudi Arabia fund and amplify deceitful, (30) _____ antiscience. They collectively employ weaponised social media outlets, podcasts and right-wing cable news broadcasts as their preferred tools. The objective is to (31) _____ the public with fossil fuel-friendly propaganda that undermines climate action or public health measures including vaccinations. Scientists are often (32) _____ as enemies or villains.

When Mike was in Australia during the 2020 black summer, he warned about the threat posed by the climate denialism of the Murdoch media empire with its dominant and (33) _____ influence on the media landscape. Yet despite this adverse media environment, the Australian people proved remarkably resilient to disinformation campaigns. Unlike the US, (34) _____ to antiscience disinformation, Australia – after (35) _____ four years ago – chose to take a different path. It elected a government that respects science and reason, even if it's falling somewhat short of its commitments.

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 26. A. through | B. up | C. off | D. out |
| 27. A. onslaught | B. ambush | C. siege | D. raid |
| 28. A. perfect storm | B. critical mass | C. vicious cycle | D. feedback loop |
| 29. A. perfidious | B. byzantine | C. endemic | D. nefarious |
| 30. A. politically charged | | B. ideologically motivated | |
| C. dogmatically driven | | D. politically partisan | |
| 31. A. allege | B. inundate | C. overhaul | D. saturate |
| 32. A. epitomized | B. marginalized | C. immured | D. portrayed |
| 33. A. pernicious | B. indigenous | C. invidious | D. injurious |
| 34. A. a nation whose vulnerability has been noted | | | |
| B. which has proven to be especially vulnerable | | | |
| C. and its proven especial vulnerability is | | | |
| D. for which a proven especial vulnerability exists | | | |
| 35. A. facing a pivotal moment | | B. coming to a turning point | |
| C. arriving at a crossroads | | D. jumping at a critical juncture | |

Your answers:

26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.
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Part 2. For questions 36-40, read the passage, then fill in each of the numbered spaces with the correct form of the words given in the box. Write your answers in the numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet. There are FOUR words that you do not need to use. The first one, (0), has been done as an example.

MEMORY	BIND	HARD	SENTIMENTAL	SYMBOL
NATION	SURVIVE	OPEN	CENSOR	ILLUMINATE

***Mua Đố* - Film and Historical Reflection**

The Vietnamese film *Mua Đố* has sparked public discussion for its heartfelt portrayal of wartime events. Unlike fictional dramas, the movie is rooted in historical (0) **memories**, weaving personal stories into the greater struggles of a nation at war.

While it acknowledges the (36) _____ faced by ordinary people, the film also highlights their resilience, solidarity, and courage that enabled them to endure. In this way, *Mua Đố* becomes more than just a film: it is both art and testimony, celebrating human strength while keeping the stories alive as a lasting part of the nation's cultural heritage.

The film not only depicts the harsh realities of war but also shines a light on the love that (37) _____ people together in the darkest times. It shows how affection among family members, comrades, and loved ones gave them strength to face loss and adversities. The storytelling remains balanced and sincere, without falling into excessive (38) _____.

Although some have questioned whether such films risk (39) _____ painful wounds in history, many argue that engaging with the past is essential for growth. Through its cinematic rendering of these struggles, *Mua Đố* has the capacity to awaken reflection and hope, thereby ensuring that the legacy of history continues to (40) _____ the path of future generations.

Your answers:

0. memories	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.
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Part 3. The passage below contains FIVE grammatical mistakes. For questions 41-45, WRITE THE LINE NUMBER of each mistake and its CORRECT FORM in the numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet. The first one has been done as an example.

Line	
1	The key ingredient in the body's psychological response to danger is
2	adrenaline. The body produce this chemical in the center of the adrenal
3	glands top the kidneys. When a physically or mentally stressful situation
4	arises, a flood of adrenaline into the bloodstream prepares the body to act
5	swiftly and forcefully to protect itself. The heart beats faster. Blood is
6	directed away from the skin and toward such structures as the skeleton
7	muscles and the brain - all to provide the oxygen necessary to run fast, lift
8	heavy objects, and think quickly. This physiological reaction to risk is the
9	well-known "fight-or-flight" response.
10	Although activated by a threat, the sudden release of adrenaline and the
11	body's responses to it produce a distinctively pleasurable feeling once the
12	danger has passed. Even people who are not seeking danger but who
13	confront it accidentally will speak afterwards of an exciting "adrenaline
	rush." To some people, the pleasure of such an experience is so intensive that
	they rate it among life's most desirable sensations. This hints at a likely
	biochemical-psychological mechanism motivate some, perhaps most, risk-
	seeking individuals.

Example: Line 2: produce → produces

Your answers:

No	Line	Mistake	Correction
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41.			
42.			
43.			
44.			
45.			

II.2. READING (6.5 points)

Part 1. *For questions 46-55, read the following passage and fill in each of the numbered spaces with ONE suitable word. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet.*

An investigation conducted by a research team at the Southwest Research Institute, utilizing the observational (46) _____ of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), has led to the identification of a previously undiscovered satellite orbiting Uranus. This finding increases the number of confirmed moons for the ice giant (47) _____ 29. The discovery was documented on February 2, 2025, and the new celestial body has been provisionally designated S/2025 U1. Its diminutive (48) _____, with an estimated diameter of approximately 10 kilometers, likely explains why it evaded detection by earlier instruments, (49) _____ the Voyager 2 spacecraft during its 1986 flyby. The newly found moon's orbital trajectory places it roughly 56,330 kilometers from the planet's center, situated between the (50) _____ of the moons Ophelia and Bianca.

The detection of S/2025 U1 (51) _____ characterizes the intricate satellite system of Uranus, particularly its inner moons. The dynamic interactions between these moons and the planet's rings suggest a complex evolutionary history (52) _____ challenges the conventional distinction between a planetary ring and a moon system. The discovery (53) _____ underscores the formidable imaging and detection capabilities of the JWST. This follows a recent finding in November 2023, where (54) _____ small Uranian moon, S/2023 U1, was identified. These discoveries collectively highlight (55) _____ advanced astronomical instrumentation is expanding our understanding of planetary systems.

(adapted from <https://www.astronomy.com/science/webb-spots-a-new-tiny-moon-orbiting-uranus/>)

Your answers:

46.	47.	48.	49.	50.
51.	52.	53.	54.	55.

Part 2. *Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.*

TIME TRAVEL

Time travel took a small step away from science fiction and toward science recently when physicists discovered that sub-atomic particles known as neutrinos – progeny of the sun's radioactive debris – can exceed the speed of light. The unassuming particle – it is electrically neutral, small but with a “non-zero mass” and able to penetrate the human form undetected – is on its way to becoming a rock star of the scientific world.

Researchers from the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva sent the neutrinos hurtling through an underground corridor toward their colleagues at the Oscillation Project with Emulsion-Tracing Apparatus (OPERA) team 730 kilometres away in Gran Sasso, Italy. The neutrinos arrived promptly – so promptly, in fact, that they triggered what scientists are calling the unthinkable – that everything they have learnt, known or taught stemming from the last one hundred years of the physics discipline may need to be reconsidered.

The issue at stake is a tiny segment of time – precisely sixty nanoseconds (which is sixty billionths of a second). This is how much faster than the speed of light the neutrinos managed to go in their underground travels and at a consistent rate (15,000 neutrinos were sent over three years). Even allowing for a margin of error of ten billionths of a second, this stands as proof that it is possible to race against light and win. The duration of the experiment also accounted for and ruled out any possible lunar effects or tidal bulges in the earth's crust.

Nevertheless, there's plenty of reason to remain sceptical. According to Harvard University science historian Peter Galison, Einstein's relativity theory has been pushed harder than any theory in the history of the physical sciences. Yet each prior challenge has come to no avail, and relativity has so far refused to buckle.

So is time travel just around the corner? The prospect has certainly been wrenched much closer to the realm of possibility now that a major physical hurdle – the speed of light – has been cleared. If particles can travel faster than light, in theory travelling back in time is possible. How anyone harnesses that to some kind of helpful end is far beyond the scope of any modern technologies, however, and will be left to future generations to explore.

Certainly, any prospective time travellers may have to overcome more physical and logical hurdles than merely overtaking the speed of light. One such problem, posited by René Barjavel in his 1943 text *Le Voyageur Imprudent* is the so-called grandfather paradox. Barjavel theorised that, if it were possible to go back in time, a time traveller could potentially kill his own grandfather. If this were to happen, however, the time traveller himself would not be born, which is already known to be true. In other words, there is a paradox in circumventing an already known future; time travel is able to facilitate past actions that mean time travel itself cannot occur.

Other possible routes have been offered, though. For Igor Novikov, astrophysicist behind the 1980s' theorem known as the self-consistency principle, time travel is possible within certain boundaries. Novikov argued that any event causing a paradox would have zero probability. It would be possible, however, to "affect" rather than "change" historical outcomes if travellers avoided all inconsistencies. Averting the sinking of the Titanic, for example, would revoke any future imperative to stop it from sinking – it would be impossible. Saving selected passengers from the water and replacing them with realistic corpses would not be impossible, however, as the historical record would not be altered in any way.

A further possibility is that of parallel universes. Popularised by Bryce Seligman DeWitt in the 1960s (from the seminal formulation of Hugh Everett), the many-worlds interpretation holds that an alternative pathway for every conceivable occurrence actually exists. If we were to send someone back in time, we might therefore expect never to see him again – any alterations would divert that person down a new historical trajectory.

A final hypothesis, one of unidentified provenance, reroutes itself quite efficiently around the grandfather paradox. Non-existence theory suggests exactly that – a person would quite simply never exist if they altered their ancestry in ways that obstructed their own birth. They would still exist in person upon returning to the present, but any chain reactions associated with their actions would not be registered. Their "historical identity" would be gone.

So, will humans one day step across the same boundary that the neutrinos have? World-renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking believes that once spaceships can exceed the speed of light, humans could feasibly travel millions of years into the future in order to repopulate earth in the event of a forthcoming apocalypse. This is because, as the spaceships accelerate into the future, time would slow down around them (Hawking concedes that bygone eras are off limits – this would violate the fundamental rule that cause comes before effect).

Hawking is therefore reserved yet optimistic. "Time travel was once considered scientific heresy, and I used to avoid talking about it for fear of being labelled a crank. These days I'm not so cautious."

For questions 56 - 61, decide whether each of the following statements is True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG). Write T, F or NG in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

56. Neutrinos can pass through a person's body without causing harm.
 57. It took scientists between 50-70 nanoseconds to send the neutrinos from Geneva to Italy.
 58. Researchers accounted for effects the moon might have had on the experiment.
 59. The theory of relativity has often been called into question unsuccessfully.
 60. This experiment could soon lead to some practical uses for time travel.
 61. Stephen Hawking has stated that human time travel might be possible, but only moving forward in time.

Your answers:

56.	57.	58.	59.	60.	61.
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For questions 62-69, read the summary and fill in each space with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS taken from the passage. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet.

Although the past may appear (62) _____ to modern readers, historians continually search for ways to make it accessible. Ian Mortimer, in *The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England*, tries to create the (63) _____ of being alive in another time, though his shifts in timeframe weaken the sense of (64) _____. By contrast, Philip Matyszak offers light-hearted historical guidebooks, though his humour occasionally feels (65) _____. Both authors, however, sometimes reveal more about (66) _____ than about the societies they describe. Another approach involves groups of (67) _____, in which people dress up and stage mock battles to experience the past. Tim Moore, in *I Believe in Yesterday*, explores this world, enduring (68) _____ in the name of authenticity. He finds that many participants are motivated either by a wish to rewrite history's (69) _____ or by a desire for companionship and escape from modern life.

Your answers:

62.	63.	64.	65.
66.	67.	68.	69.

Part 3. In the passage below, six paragraphs have been removed. For questions 70-75, read the passage and choose from paragraphs A-G the one which fits each gap. There is ONE extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Write the letters A-G in the corresponding numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet.

Making profits from sustainable industry

Green Companies have succeeded in doing what few thought possible - making sustainability profitable. Over the nine years I've spent trying to persuade business leaders to embrace sustainability, the question I've most often been asked is, "What's the business case for sustainability?" This question is always delivered in a sceptical tone, carrying the unspoken suggestion that there is no business case, or at least not a very compelling one. And, for those nine years, I'd always wished I had a better answer.

70.

These so-called green giants - which include electric car maker Tesla - manufacture a stunning array of goods, including burritos and beauty cream, sports shoes and organic baby food. In the process, they have succeeded in doing what the market long thought impossible: they've made sustainability profitable.

71.

Despite this, it's not hard to see why so many people are surprised by the idea that a sustainable business could be profitable. In his 1970 essay, "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits", American economist Milton Friedman dismissed any business with a "social conscience" as "unadulterated socialism." In the following years, the notion that sustainability, or social good generally, and profit are fundamentally opposing forces hardened into fact in the minds of most business leaders.

72.

For years, the conventional wisdom had been that sustainability is likely to lose a company money. Many still think that, at best, it's a strategy to reduce costs, through things like energy and water efficiency.

73.

This phenomenon is also evident in companies which have diversified to produce sustainable as well as conventional brands. Many businesses, perhaps sensing a change in people's attitudes, now market environmentally-friendly products alongside their more well-established cousins. The greener products are outselling their more traditional equivalents.

74.

Such a demonstration of acceptance by the capitalist establishment is profoundly important. It represents a fundamental shift and evidence that this sector of the market has long-term viability. For the green giants, sustainability is not about how they save money, but about how they make it. No longer are sustainability and profit at odds; on the contrary, rather than being a drag on profit, sustainability can drive it.

In many companies, sustainability is a department, but for the green giants, it's a value that is fully integrated into how their business is organised.

75.

Together, the green giants have proven that businesses based on sustainability and social good are an extremely viable alternative to business as usual. With global climate change being taken increasingly seriously in many places around the world, close your eyes, and the pace of change will have only accelerated by the time you open them again. Ignore the green giants' example at your peril.

Missing paragraphs:

A. This shift in consumer demand has led to a renewal of stock market interest in these more traditional firms. As is the case with the green giants, their Stock market value regularly and significantly outperforms a portfolio of less forward-thinking competitors.

B. Thanks to the vision of these, and other, brave entrepreneurs, they have silenced many of the doubters by collectively generating over \$100 billion in annual revenue. Not only that, they do so with profit margins that are generally wider than the industry averages.

C. That's why these companies thrive even though their ethical and humane raw ingredients are more expensive: Their whole cost structure has been built to accommodate these higher prices, so they still command healthy profit margins nearly three times the industry average.

D. So if a product targets only a consumer niche, it's hard to make any significant revenue; there simply aren't enough people who take green values seriously enough to get you there. Green giants, however, appeal to mainstream customers or consumers.

E. But while these perceived notions of it being an exercise in saving rather than making money are still widespread, they are not actually supported by the overwhelming bulk of evidence. Several green giants are actually growing faster than conventional business lines.

F. There are now, however, at least nine companies globally that generate a billion dollars or more in annual revenue from products or services that have sustainability or social good at their core. They perhaps provide the evidence needed to convince even the hardest of these cynics.

G. This fact is confirmed by numerous conversations I've had with professionals who promote the cause of the sustainable industry. Some are still struggling to persuade many of their business colleagues of the case for change.

Your answers:

70.	71.	72.	73.	74.	75.
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Part 4. *For questions 76-85, read the following passage and write A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer which fits best according to what is stated or implied in the text*

1. Sit on any commuter train or in any cafe and you are bound to spot people around you consumed by the challenge of doing a puzzle. It is a hugely popular pastime, whether in the form of a simple crossword or Sudoku puzzle, Wordle, an online strategy game, or even an escape room challenge. And yet, the most formidable of puzzles can't be found in black or white in the daily news, or behind some unassuming shopfront entrance. They are the enigmas of secret ancient texts and the keys needed to unlock them have been lost in the mists of time.
2. Reasons why messages might be obscured can vary widely – whether to conceal military plans from the enemy, create distractions or quite simply due to audacity, the only commonality being that the message must be hidden from those who are not the intended or worthy recipients. Within the study of Cryptography, the sender is referred to as Alice or A, the intended recipient is Bob or B, and amongst many other monikers, Eve or E is the eavesdropper. **[A]** Usually, these kinds of communications require a 'cipher', essentially the blueprint to interpret the secret code, which should be known only to the original agents. However, the luxury of a cipher doesn't always exist. When trying to 'crack a code' that doesn't have any cipher, the cryptanalyst needs to gather as much information as possible from the original text, so the bigger it is the better, and then to use all the techniques in his or her arsenal to try and unlock it.
3. When seeking to unlock the simpler codes, frequency analysis is often considered a useful method. This involves looking for letters that appear more frequently than others. So, for example, if the original text is considered to be in English, then identifying frequent occurrences of a letter or groups of letters, such as vowels or consonant clusters, may help decode the text. This, done by hand, can be a painstakingly slow, difficult, and sometimes, fruitless task. **[B]** Firstly, this technique has to assume what language the original code was written in, as well as that the original cipher has failed to hide these common patterns. It's therefore a technique which relies on the cipher being simplistic, which, while true of some earlier forms of coded messaging, is rarely the case these days. Simple as they may appear now,

basic coded messages signalled a huge leap in communication forms of the past. In fact, an elementary form of cryptography was practised by Julius Caesar, who sent his generals coded messages using what is commonly known today as the Caesar cipher - a technique where, put simply, one letter in an original message was replaced by another in a fixed position, usually three letters down the alphabet. So, for example, DON'T MOVE becomes GROW PRYH.

4. However, there are many codes of the past that do indeed require a genius to unlock their mysteries, the most famous of which is the Voynich Manuscript, a 15th century book, written in an unknown script, featuring a never-before-seen alphabet. With over 170,000 beautiful, looping letters, as well as illustrations, this manuscript is the pinnacle of puzzle solving, and remains a complete mystery to professional and amateur cryptologists alike. There is still debate over the purpose of the text, but the illustrations would seemingly point to it being some sort of encyclopaedia of the natural world. Some argue that the work is not encoded at all, but rather written in a language that died out without record. One school of thought even considers the entire thing to be a hoax and that the 'writing' is simply **gibberish**.
5. People can make up their own mind about it, however, as the entire work is publicly available online for anybody to try their hand at solving. It is one of many mysterious texts now accessible to the general public and waiting to be cracked. In fact, there is a plethora of enigmatic communications from throughout history that remain shrouded in mystery, many of which have a fascinating background. The Dorabella Cipher, for example, written by composer Edward Elgar, is a message to a family friend, consisting simply of various squiggles oriented towards different directions. It looks unlike any other kind of text, but to this day, nobody has been able to decipher it, even the recipient herself. Some even believe it to not be a text at all, but rather a coded musical composition.
6. But perhaps the Beale Ciphers might be of more interest to a wider audience of puzzle enthusiasts. These three cryptic texts date back to the 1880s and apparently conceal the location of one Thomas J Beale's buried treasure in Virginia. Some parts of these texts have been solved, such as what the treasure contains and that the hiding place is 'roughly lined with stone', making it all the more compelling. But before, reader, you go searching through every cold, dark and dangerous cave in the area, as many have before you, be warned that it may all just be an elaborate ruse. After all, the texts were sold in pamphlets for a princely sum at the time, putting the veracity of the whole story in question.
7. Stories such as these often create a frenzy of excitement, but, even if there is no monetary value in it for the solver, cracking any secret code pays dividends when it comes to the sense of achievement you get. After all, they were meant for only certain eyes that do not include our own – who wouldn't be interested in trying to find out their hidden meanings? This is why amateur cryptography can be such a fulfilling pursuit. Getting started couldn't be easier, with a multitude of books on the subject, ranging from titles for the beginner code breaker to more advanced works on specific cyphers, as well as a number of websites devoted to code breaking, many with accompanying brain teasers. Although, with more modern codes, having a good grounding in maths and computer sciences is imperative.
8. With the sheer range of coded texts in existence, however, wherever an individual's aptitudes lie, there will always be the very puzzle for them. The visually minded perhaps lean towards the Dorabella Cipher, while the linguistically focused could view the Voynich Manuscript as their

Everest. And for those who are more commercially minded, the Beale Ciphers might be just the ticket.

76. What does the author imply in paragraph 1?
- A. There exists the need to decode the mystery of secret ancient texts.
 - B. Doing a puzzle is gaining in prevalence as the most favourite hobby.
 - C. The attraction of solving puzzles can sometimes be so conspicuous.
 - D. The keys to unlock the most challenging puzzles are now unavailable.
77. Bob in Cryptography refers to those who _____ .
- A. have lower likelihood to decipher the code
 - B. are given the key to decode the secret text
 - C. do not have enough information from the original text
 - D. have to use all the techniques to unlock the secret code
78. What is the encoded version of ATTACK according to Caesar cipher?
- A. DWWDFN
 - B. CVVCFO
 - C. CVVCEM
 - D. DYYDFO
79. The word **gibberish** in paragraph 4 mostly means _____ .
- A. having little use
 - B. having no meaning
 - C. having no relation
 - D. having little importance
80. Which of the following is NOT stated about Voynich Manuscript?
- A. It was written in the 15th century.
 - B. It used an unprecedented alphabet.
 - C. It is now accessible to the general public.
 - D. It is the most mysterious script to be unlocked.
81. The author suggests that The Dorabella Cipher _____ .
- A. was originally unintended for a large circle
 - B. was mistaken for another genre of composition
 - C. was a series of printed characters with various slants
 - D. was created mostly to challenge visually-minded decoders
82. Which of the following is suggested about the Beale Ciphers?
- A. They warranted the most attention of puzzle enthusiasts at the time.
 - B. The hidden treasure mentioned in the texts was probably non-existent.
 - C. Most of them were already decoded, leaving little for modern discovery.
 - D. Few people had access to the texts at that time as they were sold at high prices.
83. With which of the following would the author most likely agree?
- A. It is often more exciting to crack secret codes with monetary rewards.
 - B. Writing books and building websites on code breaking are now lucrative jobs.
 - C. Modern code cracking necessitates strong background in more than one field.
 - D. Unlike professional cryptography, amateur code cracking provides a lot of fun.
84. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- A. Code crackers these days are more varied in aptitudes than those in ancient time.
 - B. The background of the secret code reveals a lot about the history of communication at that time.

- C. In comparison to the past, the purpose of code cracking has extended beyond the realm of necessity.
- D. Simplistic as the cyphers in ancient time might be, they still prove challenging to modern code crackers.

85. Which of the following square brackets [A], [B], [C], or [D] best indicates where in the passage the sentence “*In retrospect, the flaws in this method of encryption are obvious.*” can be inserted?

- A. [A] B. [B] C. [C] D. [D]

Your answers:

76.	77.	78.	79.	80.
81.	82.	83.	84.	85.

Part 5. For questions 86-95, read the following passage and choose from the sections (A-E). The sections may be selected more than once. Write the letter A, B, C, D, or E in the corresponding numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet.

My favourite Shakespearean role

Five actors who are very experienced at playing characters from the plays of Shakespeare explain their favourite role to play

A. Sir Alan Wallace as Macbeth

As an experienced actor with a profound appreciation for the works of William Shakespeare, my favourite role to date has been Macbeth. Portraying the ambitious and troubled Scottish general allowed me to explore the complexities of human nature. I relished the challenge of capturing Macbeth's transformation from a brave and noble warrior to a ruthless tyrant dealing with feelings of guilt. Shakespeare's language provides some great material for an actor, and Macbeth's speeches are particularly captivating. The famous "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow" speech encompasses the despair and hopelessness that Macbeth experiences. It's a moment where the character's vulnerability is clear to everyone, and, as an actor, I strive to convey the raw emotions embedded within the words. The role continues to challenge and inspire me, allowing me to explore the depths of human nature through the lens of Shakespeare's genius.

B. Dame Julie Dear as Lady Macbeth

Lady Macbeth always has a special place in my heart. This powerful and extremely complex character has been a source of endless fascination throughout my career. Portraying her journey from a manipulative and ambitious woman to a tormented soul consumed by guilt is a true acting challenge. Lady Macbeth's speech in Act 1, Scene 5, where she calls upon the spirits to fill her with cruelty, demonstrates her strong will and burning desire for power. Exploring the depths of her mind, I aim to convey her internal struggles and the tragic consequences of her actions. What I find most intriguing about Lady Macbeth is her status as a woman in a male-dominated world. Through her character, Shakespeare provides a fascinating exploration of femininity and the destructive forces that can arise when ambition is out of control.

C. Ian Stewart as King Lear

In my award-winning career, one Shakespearean role stands out above all others, and that is the tragic figure of King Lear. This complex character exhibits the full range of human emotions. One of the most powerful scenes in the play occurs during the storm on the heath, where Lear confronts the harsh realities of his own stupidity. The raw vulnerability and emotional turmoil of this

moment provide an immense challenge for any actor. It is a scene where the full force of Lear's internal struggle becomes apparent, and I strive to convey his pain and anguish with utmost sincerity. King Lear offers a profound examination of human nature, exposing the fragility that can consume even the mightiest of individuals. The poetic richness of his speeches, particularly during the emotional moments of self-reflection, gives me the opportunity to connect with the audience on a deeper level. It is a great challenge, but also a privilege to bring such a complex character to life.

D. Kevin Woods as Hamlet

Ah, the world-famous Prince of Denmark, Hamlet! It is with great enthusiasm that I declare this Shakespearean role to be my absolute favourite. The complexities of Hamlet's character, his philosophical reflections and his quest for justice provide a treasure trove for any actor. Hamlet's speech in Act III, Scene 1, where he considers the nature of existence with the iconic phrase "To be, or not to be", remains one of the most renowned passages in all of literature. It is a moment of reflection that demonstrates the depth of Hamlet's psyche. Bringing this extensive inner life to the stage is a challenge I really enjoy. What sets Hamlet apart is his multi-dimensionality. He is simultaneously a scholar, a philosopher, a son seeking revenge and a prince caught in the web of political intrigue. Examining all of these layers and portraying the intricate emotions of a character trying to come to terms with life's most profound questions is an exhilarating journey for an actor.

E. Dame Mary Small as Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing"

When it comes to Shakespearean roles, I am extremely fond of the quick-witted and spirited Beatrice from *Much Ado About Nothing*. Portraying this fiercely independent and fiery character has been a true delight throughout my career. Beatrice's sharp wit and her ability to hold her own in a world dominated by men make her a timeless and empowering figure. She is a woman unafraid to speak her mind and challenge norms and expectations in society. It is a joy to bring her vibrant energy and dark humour to the stage. Shakespeare's language in *'Much Ado About Nothing'* is particularly playful and filled with witty exchanges. The dialogue between Beatrice and Benedick is a delight to perform, as they shoot comments at each other, like two tennis players passing a ball. Portraying Beatrice also allows me to celebrate the strength and intelligence of women while also reminding audiences of the power of love and the importance of embracing vulnerability.

(Adapted from Reading CPE, Prosperity Education 2023 Version)

In which section is the following mentioned?

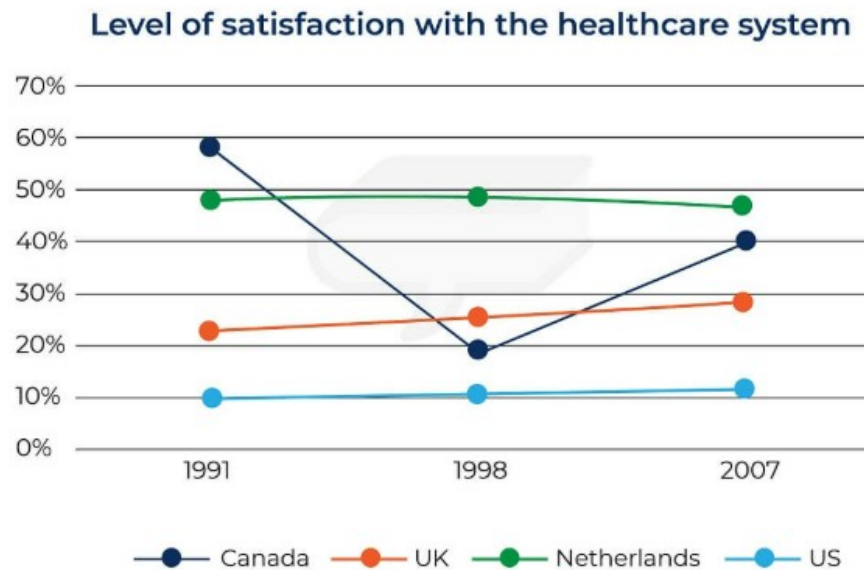
- 86. a scene where a character is confronted by an uncomfortable truth
- 87. an appreciation of a character's contradiction of society's expectations of them
- 88. still having to work hard to portray a character despite having done it many times
- 89. an appreciation of how their character can behave in many different ways
- 90. the significant change in the personality and behaviour of a character
- 91. how a Shakespearean character can go beyond conventional gender boundaries
- 92. finding a way to access what is going on in the mind of their character
- 93. the linguistic complexities of a character's speeches
- 94. the amusing back-and-forth between their character and another character
- 95. how their character experiences remorse

Your answers:

86.	87.	88.	89.	90.
91.	92.	93.	94.	95.

IV. WRITING

Part 1. The graph below shows people’s level of satisfaction with the health care system in 4 countries between 1991 and 2007. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Part 2. Write an essay of 300 words on the following topic.

Ecotourism is commonly promoted as a form of responsible travel that minimizes environmental damage while supporting conservation and local communities, a concept that has gained popularity in recent years.

Some argue that ecotourism plays a crucial role in protecting natural environments by generating funding for conservation efforts and raising environmental awareness among travelers. Many others maintain that ecotourism can still cause environmental degradation, as increased tourist activity may disrupt ecosystems and contribute to pollution. Another line of thought highlights that ecotourism often leads to the commercialization of natural areas, where profit-driven practices may outweigh genuine sustainability, sometimes at the expense of local communities and ecosystems.

Which view(s) do you agree with? Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.