

I. LISTENING (5.0 points)

- *The listening section is in **FOUR** parts. You will hear each part **TWICE**. At the beginning of each part, you will hear a sound.*
- *There will be a piece of music at the beginning and at the end of the listening section. You will have **TWO** minutes to check your answers at the end of the listening section.*
- *All the other instructions are included in the recording.*

Part 1. For questions 1–5, listen to the conversation between a man and a woman discussing the role of peer feedback. Decide whether the following points are mentioned by only one of the speakers, or by both of them. In the corresponding numbered boxes provided,

write: **M** for the Male speaker
 F for the Female speaker
 B for Both of the speakers.

1. Presents peer-feedback grading as a way to learn self-editing by editing others' drafts.
2. Says scaling that method across ages/contexts or for high-stakes would be a bad idea.
3. Claims there's no full algorithm for starting a great essay; only rules-of-thumb and revision tricks.
4. Argues most of writing is teachable via algorithms, with a tiny "magic" remainder.
5. Identifies vocabulary size as a core constraint on students' writing.

For questions 6-10, decide whether each statement is True (T), False (F), or Not Given (NG) according to what you hear. Write T, F, or NG in the corresponding numbered boxes.

6. Orson Scott Card's grading system placed greater emphasis on students' evaluative feedback than on their own written work.
7. Russ Roberts believes that producing an excellent first draft is the key to becoming a successful writer.
8. Daisy Christodoulou argues that Card's peer-feedback model is appropriate only under certain limited conditions.
9. Christodoulou states that vocabulary size is one of the main factors that can restrict students' writing development.
10. Both speakers agree that reading widely is the most reliable way to become a better writer.

Your answer:

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

Part 2. Listen to a discussion about orbital AI infrastructure ONCE and do the tasks that follow.

For questions 11 – 12, choose TWO letters from A–E to indicate TWO true statements about the motivations behind orbital data centers. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- A. The merger of xAI with SpaceX was primarily motivated by technological requirements rather than financial considerations.
- B. One advantage of orbital computing systems is the potential to access uninterrupted solar energy for extended periods.
- C. The concept of AI training satellites emerged only after the rapid expansion of the Starlink network.
- D. The increasing difficulty of supplying sufficient electrical power to terrestrial data centers has encouraged interest in space-based alternatives.
- E. Most analysts believe that orbital AI data centers will replace Earth-based facilities within the next decade.

For questions 13 – 15, choose THREE letters from A–G to indicate THREE true statements about proposed architectures for orbital computing systems. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- A. A sun-synchronous orbit allows satellites to remain positioned near the boundary between daylight and darkness for most of their trajectory.
- B. Proposed satellite constellations are designed exclusively to maximize distance from Earth in order to minimize atmospheric interference.
- C. Some models suggest combining satellites in continuously illuminated orbits with others positioned closer to areas where computing demand is concentrated.
- D. The concept of launching satellites from the Moon using electromagnetic acceleration systems has already been demonstrated experimentally.
- E. One proposal involves constructing satellites on the Moon and deploying them toward Earth orbit using a mass-driver mechanism.
- F. Several technology companies and investors outside SpaceX have begun exploring the feasibility of orbital computing infrastructure.

G. The primary technical challenge of orbital data centers is ensuring that GPUs receive sufficient cooling in the vacuum of space.

For questions 16–20, Listen to a discussion about orbital data centres and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D according to what the speakers state or imply. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes.

16. The merger of xAI with SpaceX is described as serving all of the following purposes EXCEPT

- A.** balancing the financial dynamics between two different businesses
- B.** integrating rocket-launch capability with large-scale AI ambitions
- C.** eliminating competition from rival technology companies
- D.** strengthening the overall strategic position of Musk’s companies

17. Why is a sun-synchronous orbit considered attractive for orbital data centres?

- A.** It keeps satellites constantly within range of ground communication stations.
- B.** It allows satellites to remain exposed to sunlight for most of their orbit.
- C.** It places satellites much closer to the Earth than conventional orbits.
- D.** It reduces the number of satellites required in a computing network.

18. The proposal to launch around one million satellites is mainly mentioned to

- A.** illustrate the enormous scale that orbital computing infrastructure could reach.
- B.** show that satellite constellations of this size already exist today.
- C.** demonstrate that space-based computing is already economically viable.
- D.** explain why launch costs will soon fall below terrestrial energy costs.

19. According to the discussion, satellites placed far from Earth may present a problem because they

- A.** struggle to transmit large volumes of data back to Earth.
- B.** are not always positioned above the regions where computing demand exists.
- C.** require more complex protection from space radiation.
- D.** experience higher rates of mechanical failure.

20. The references to companies such as StarCloud, Google and investors like Jeff Bezos and Eric Schmidt are used to

- A.** suggest that interest in orbital computing extends beyond Elon Musk.
- B.** demonstrate that orbital data centres are already widely deployed.
- C.** emphasise the technological dominance of SpaceX in the launch market.
- D.** indicate that most experts expect space-based computing to replace terrestrial data centres soon.

Your answers:

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

Part 3. For questions 21–25, listen to part of a talk about Restless Leg Syndrome (RLS). Answer each question with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS taken from the recording. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

21. What term describes the uncontrollable need to move the legs experienced by people with RLS?

.....

22. What type of sensation in the legs is commonly associated with this condition?

.....

23. Which brain chemical involved in regulating movement is affected when iron levels are low?

.....

24. What specific brain region is responsible for controlling the initiation of muscle movement?

.....

25. What type of medication can mimic dopamine signals in the brain to alleviate symptoms?

Part 4. For questions 26–35, listen to a report about the current weather of Hanoi. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS taken from the recording for each answer in the space provided.

26. Hanoi's seasonal allure, widely cited by travel magazines, stems partly from its _____, a feature that differentiates the city from most Asian capitals.

27. Mid-autumn celebrations, long rooted in harvest rituals, display not only traditional arts but also _____ that symbolize abundance and festivity.

28. As a _____ drifted across the Old Quarter, both locals and visitors noted a perceptible shift in the city's sensory landscape.

29. The reinvention of green-rice beverages has turned what was once a humble snack into _____ embraced by younger consumers seeking novelty.

30. Artisan chefs meticulously crafted seasonal dishes designed to enchant _____, elevating familiar ingredients into gastronomic symbols of Hanoi.

31. Rising consumer activity during autumn is largely driven by the collective desire _____ the fleeting charm of this transitional season.

32. Photography enthusiasts continue to crowd Hanoi's most photogenic spots—now widely regarded as the city's definitive _____ for capturing autumn.

33. With demand soaring, street vendors and _____ exploited the seasonal boom, monetizing even the smallest visual accessories.

34. Some merchants reported an unprecedented surge in orders, selling up to seven _____ on peak days, far surpassing usual monthly averages.

35. Social media trends have encouraged many residents to sample visually striking _____, which often go viral thanks to their whimsical presentation.

Your answers:

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

II. READING (8 points)

II. 1. Language in use

Part 1. For questions 36–40, read the passage below and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits each space. Write the letter A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Lifestyle is a pattern of living adopted by individuals, groups and nations within specific geographical, economic, political, cultural and religious contexts. It refers to the characteristic ways in which people behave and function in a particular time and place. It includes day-to-day activities related to work, leisure and diet (36) _____.

In recent decades, lifestyle has attracted increasing attention as a crucial determinant of health. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 60% of the factors related to individual health and quality of life are associated with lifestyle. This statistic suggests that health outcomes are shaped less by isolated medical events and more by patterns of living (37) _____.

Millions of people adopt lifestyles that place them at significant risk. As a result, they encounter illness, disability and even premature death. Conditions such as metabolic disorders, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension and obesity are frequently linked to unhealthy behavioral patterns. The connection between lifestyle and health, therefore, (38) _____.

Contemporary societies are undergoing rapid transformation. Malnutrition, smoking, alcohol consumption, drug abuse and chronic stress have become prevalent features of modern living. At the same time, citizens face new challenges brought about by technological development. The expansion of digital networks and virtual communication platforms has introduced unprecedented changes to social interaction, (39) _____.

One of the most pressing concerns is the overuse and misuse of technology. Excessive screen time and online dependency may undermine both physical and psychological well-being. These developments illustrate that lifestyle is not merely a private matter of preference, (40) _____.

- 36.
- A. which collectively define habitual modes of existence
 - B. that are collectively defining habitual modes of existence
 - C. collectively they define habitual modes existing
 - D. in collective definition of habitual existing modes
- 37.
- A. instead random medical circumstances
 - B. rather than by random circumstances medically
 - C. than by random medical circumstances alone
 - D. instead of random medically circumstances
- 38.
- A. requires serious and systematic consideration
 - B. requires to be seriously and systematically considered
 - C. is required serious and systematic consideration
 - D. requires seriously systematic consideration
- 39.
- A. reshaping thereby patterns communicating behaviour
 - B. thereby reshaping patterns of communication and behaviour
 - C. thereby reshape patterns of communicating behaviour
 - D. and therefore reshaped patterns of communication
- 40.
- A. but rather structural factor with far reaching consequence
 - B. but rather it is a structural factor that has far reach consequences
 - C. but is structural factor having far-reached consequences
 - D. but a structural factor with far-reaching social consequences

Your answer:

36.	37.	38.	39.	40.
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Part 2. For questions 41 – 45, read the passage below and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits each space. Write the letter A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

As global temperatures continue to climb, the climate crisis is increasingly framed not merely as an environmental concern but as a profound moral challenge. In recent years, religious leaders across diverse traditions have taken increasingly (41) _____ positions on the responsibility of humanity to safeguard the planet. Pope Francis, for instance, has placed environmental stewardship at the centre of his papacy, urging both governments and individuals to

adopt practices that mitigate the environmental consequences of unchecked industrial development.

Across the United States, ecumenical organisations have similarly sought to (42) _____ environmental protection with longstanding theological principles, particularly the notion that humanity has been entrusted with the care of creation. Such arguments have gained traction among believers who see climate action not simply as a political issue but as a matter of spiritual accountability.

Nevertheless, despite the overwhelming scientific consensus identifying human activity as the principal driver of climate change, public attitudes remain far from uniform. Political affiliation, media consumption, and cultural identity often (43) _____ perceptions of both the severity of climate risks and the urgency of policy responses.

Researchers examining these dynamics increasingly point to the role of religion in shaping environmental attitudes. For some believers, religious teachings cultivate a sense of (44) _____ responsibility toward future generations, reinforcing the moral imperative to protect the natural world.

Consequently, scholars argue that understanding the intersection between faith and environmental concern may encourage institutions and communities to remain committed to (45) _____ in addressing the growing climate crisis.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 41. | A. ambiguous | B. unequivocal | C. incidental | D. tentative |
| 42. | A. reconcile | B. converge | C. fuse | D. consolidate |
| 43. | A. mediate | B. inflate | C. neutralise | D. obscure |
| 44. | A. transitory | B. intergenerational | C. provisional | D. circumstantial |
| 45. | A. going the extra mile | B. leaving nothing to chance | | |
| | C. keeping a close watch | D. playing by the book | | |

Part 3. For questions 46 –50, 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. There are FIVE

RATION	MOLECULE	THEORY	ISOLATE	CELL
CYTOLOGY	BIOCHEMISTRY	SEPARATE	LOGIC	HYPOTHESIS

There is a self-reinforcing feedback loop within science: models of reality are proposed, and experimental tools and methods are created to test those models. Tools dictate what can be discovered, and our models determine which tools are made to begin with. (36) models are often useful for a long time, until their fundamental limitations are recognized. The time has come for biology to undertake a reevaluation of its own models, if we want to progress in our understanding of the cell.

In (37) biology, no metaphor has carried more weight than the notion of cells as machines. Schoolchildren are taught to think of cells as little computers, filled with molecules that perform (38.....) functions. When François Jacob and Jacques Monod, two Parisian scientists, discovered the principles of gene expression in 1961, they thought of biomolecules as executing “conditional statements common to programming languages to control protein production.”

By equating living cells and computers, one has mistaken the map for the territory. A cell cannot be fully understood by studying all of its components in (39), as a steam turbine or other machines can be. Cells are stuffed with billions of interacting molecules, the behavior of which changes from one environment to the next. And yet, biologists have long devised methods to study (40) components individually, rather than as continuously changing parts of a whole.[...]

Part 4. The passage below contains FIVE grammatical mistakes. For questions 51 – 55, UNDERLINE the remaining FIVE mistakes and WRITE THEIR CORRECT FORMS in the numbered boxes provided.

A Knotty Problem

New analysis of a uniquely Inca recordkeeping device, known as a *kipu*, has changed archaeologists’ conception of the individuals who created and maintained them. These objects consist of a series of intricately knotting cords typically made from animal hair. They were used to record numerical information such as dates, inventories of goods, and tax data. Khipus were instrumental in the administration of the Inca state.

However, this may not be the case, according to recent analysis of a 500-year-old khipu held by the University of St. Andrews. Researchers noticed that a large portion of the artifact was woven from human hair that was the product of eight years of growth. “The presence of the khipukamayuq’s hair suggests that this khipu recorded something important and very personal, such as the offering that this individual made at different shrines,” says archaeologist Sabine Hyland of the University of St. Andrews. The team was surprised that isotope analysis of the strand revealed that the khipukamayuq did not eat meat or maize. Instead, the person dined tubers, greens, and other plants. This has led researchers to conclude that numerical literacy, which was a requirement for khipukamayuqs, was more widespread in Inca society than previously believed.

Your answer:

51.	52.	53.
54.	55.	

II.2. READING COMPREHENSION (5.0 points)

Part 1. For questions 56 – 65, 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.

The early years in a child's life are the most important period for supporting holistic development and preparing the child for future success. Despite substantial scientific and economic evidence, as well as increased global attention to early education, governments are still not investing (56) _____ in holistic early childhood systems. Responsibilities for early childhood programs remain fragmented across ministries and sectors, making for a disjointed (57) _____.

Delivering ECD programs at scale is challenging, and the ability to recruit and retain a qualified workforce is (58) _____ to improving both access and quality. Financing also remains too low to reach all children with nurturing experiences such as parenting support, early health and nutrition services, childcare and preschool. The most disadvantaged are often the least (59) _____.

Policymakers and program designers can benefit from shared experiences and practical tools to strengthen their models and improve service (60) _____. Yet underinvestment, fragmented governance and uneven implementation continue to (61) _____ progress. Without coherent strategies and predictable financing, even strong interventions risk becoming (62) _____ at scale. Addressing these gaps requires the (63) _____ to coordinate across sectors and make early childhood development a national (64) _____ so that every child receives the foundational support (65) _____ for lifelong well-being.

Part 2. For questions 66–72, rearrange the following sentences from A–H in order to make a complete and coherent passage. Write your answers (A–H) in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. The first one (0) has been done as an example.

A.
For decades, scholars have wondered whether the abstract markings carved onto Paleolithic artifacts might represent more than mere decoration, hinting instead at an early attempt to encode information.

B.
A recent computational study led by linguist Christian Bentz of Saarland University and archaeologist Ewa Dutkiewicz examined the statistical structure of thousands of such marks preserved on ancient objects.

C.
The researchers analyzed more than 3,000 signs appearing on approximately 260 artifacts, comparing the patterns of repetition and variation within these sequences.

D.

Surprisingly, the distribution and organization of these Paleolithic marks displayed levels of complexity comparable to those found in proto-cuneiform, one of the earliest known writing systems that emerged around 3000 B.C.

E.

Before conducting the analysis, however, the team had expected proto-cuneiform to resemble modern writing systems more closely because of its much later historical origin.

F.

Instead, the results suggested that proto-cuneiform shares striking structural similarities with the far older sequences of lines, dots, notches, and crosses engraved by Paleolithic people.

G.

These findings may ultimately help researchers narrow the range of possible interpretations regarding what kinds of information prehistoric humans might have intended to communicate through such markings.

H.

Although the precise meaning of the signs remains unknown, the study strengthens the possibility that systematic information recording began far earlier in human history than previously assumed.

Your answer:

0. A.	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.	71.	72.
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Part 3: Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

A In the early days of mountaineering, questions of safety, standards of practice, and environmental impact were not widely considered. The sport gained traction following the successful 1786 ascent of Mont Blanc, the highest peak in Western Europe, by two French mountaineers, Jacques Balmat and Michel-Gabriel Paccard. This event established the beginning of modern mountaineering, but the sole consideration over the next hundred years was the success or failure of climbers in reaching the summit and claiming the prestige of having made the first ascent.

B Toward the end of the nineteenth century, however, developments in technology spurred debate regarding climbing practices. Of particular concern in this era was the introduction of pitons (metal spikes that climbers hammer into the rock face for leverage) and the use of *belaying* techniques. A few, such as Italian climber Guido Rey, supported these methods as ways to render climbing less burdensome and more ‘acrobatic’. Others felt that they were only of value as a safety net if all else failed. Austrian Paul Preuss went so far as to eschew all artificial aids, scaling astonishing heights using only his shoes and his bare hands. Albert Mummery, a well known British mountaineer and author who climbed the European Alps, and, more famously, the Himalayas, where he died at the age of 39 attempting a notoriously difficult ascent, developed the notion of ‘fair means’ as a kind of informal protocol by which the use of ‘walk-through’ guidebooks and equipment such as ladders and grappling hooks were discouraged.

C By the 1940s, bolts had begun to replace pitons as the climber's choice of equipment, and criticism surrounding their use was no less fierce. In 1948, when two American climbers scaled Mount Brussels in the Canadian Rockies using a small number of pitons and bolts, climber Frank Smythe wrote of their efforts: 'I still regard Mount Brussels as unclimbed, and my feelings are no different from those I should have were I to hear that a helicopter had deposited its passenger on the summit of that mountain just so that he could boast that he had trodden an untrodden mountain top.'

D Climbing purists aside, it was not until the 1970s that the general tide began to turn against bolting and pitons. The USA, and much of the western world, was waking up to the damage it had been causing to the planet, and environmentalist campaigns and new government policies were becoming widespread. This new awareness and sensitivity to environmental issues spilled over into the rock climbing community. As a result, a stripped-down style of rock climbing known as 'clean climbing' became widely adopted. Clean climbing helped preserve rock faces and, compared with older approaches, it was much simpler to practise. This was partly due to the hallmark of clean climbing – the use of nuts – which were favoured over bolts because they could be placed into the rock wall with one hand while climbers maintained their grip on the rock with the other.

E Not everyone embraced the clean climbing movement, however. A decade later, debates over two more developments were erupting. The first related to the practice of chipping, in which climbers chip away pieces of rock in order to create tiny cracks in which to insert their fingers. The other major point of contention was a process that involves setting bolts in reverse from the top of the climb down. Rappel bolting makes almost any rock face climbable with relative ease, and as a result of this new technique, the sport has lost much of its risk factor and sense of pioneering spirit; indeed, it has become more about muscle power and technical mastery than a psychological trial of fearlessness under pressure. Because of this shift in focus, many amateur climbers have flocked to indoor climbing gyms, where the risk of serious harm is negligible.

F Given the environmental damage rock climbing can cause, this may be a positive outcome. It is ironic that most rock climbers and mountaineers love the outdoors and have great respect for the majesty of nature and the impressive challenges she poses, but that in the pursuit of their goals they inevitably trample sensitive vegetation, damaging and disturbing delicate flora and lichens which grow on ledges and cliff faces. Two researchers from a Canadian university, Doug Larson and Michelle McMillan, have found that rock faces that are regularly climbed have lost up to 80% of the coverage and diversity of native plant species. If that were not bad enough, non-native species have also been inadvertently introduced, having been carried in on climbers' boots.

G This leaves rock climbing with an uncertain future. Climbers are not the only user group that wishes to enjoy the wilderness – hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders visit the same areas, and more importantly, they are much better organised, with long-established lobby groups protecting their interests. With increased pressure on limited natural resources, it has been

suggested that climbers put aside their differences over the ethics of various climbing techniques, and focus on the effect of their practices on the environment and their relationship with other users and landowners.

H In any event, there can be no doubt that the era of the rock climber as a lone wolf or intrepid pioneer is over. Like many other forms of recreation, rock climbing has increasingly come under the fold of institutional efforts to curb dangerous behaviour and properly manage our natural environments. This may have spoiled the magic, but it has also made the sport safer and more sustainable, and governing bodies would do well to consider heightening such efforts in the future.

belaying: fastening or controlling of a climber's rope by wrapping it around a metal device or another person

Questions 73–78: Reading Passage 3 has eight paragraphs, A–H.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, A–H, in boxes 56–69 on your answer sheet.

73. examples of the impact of climbers on ecosystems

74. an account of how politics affected rock climbing

75. a less dangerous alternative to climbing rock faces

76. a recommendation for better regulation

77. a reference to a climber who did not use any tools or ropes for assistance

78. examples of different types of people who use the outdoors for recreation

Questions 79–85: Complete the flow chart below. Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in boxes 62–69 on your answer sheet.

A rock climbing time line

Late 19th century

Some climbers discuss whether pitons and ropes should only be considered **79** ..

.....

80 calls for guidelines based on unwritten rules which discourage climbing aids.

1940s

New equipment becomes controversial. Frank Smythe says that Mt Brussels is effectively **81** because of the techniques that were used in order to scale the mountain.

1970s

82 is more environmentally friendly. **83** are introduced as a climbing aid.

1980s – today

Climbers discuss the merits of new techniques for making hand holds, and also of **84**..... Many say that climbing is now a test of physical strength and **85**....., rather than of courage.

Questions 86-87

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D. Write the correct letter in box 40 on your answer sheet.

Question 86. Choose the most appropriate title for the reading passage.

- A. A history of rock climbing
- B. Ethics and issues in rock climbing
- C. Current trends in rock climbing
- D. Sport climbers versus traditional climbers

Question 87. Which of the following best captures Frank Smythe's attitude toward the ascent of Mount Brussels described in the passage?

- A. He believed the climbers' reliance on mechanical equipment diminished the authenticity of their achievement.
- B. He argued that technological innovation was an inevitable and beneficial development in mountaineering.
- C. He considered the climbers' use of pitons and bolts a practical response to the dangers of the mountain.
- D. He suggested that the ascent represented a significant advancement in climbing techniques.

Your answer:

73.	74.	75.	76.	77.
78.	79.	80.	81.	82.
83.	84.	85.		

Part 4. Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

1. Before 1815, manufacturing in the United States was primarily conducted within homes or workshops by proficient artisans. These master craftworkers transmitted their trade expertise to

apprentices and journeymen. Additionally, women frequently engaged in part-time work from home, crafting finished goods using raw materials provided by merchant capitalists. However, following 1815, this traditional mode of manufacturing gradually yielded to factory-based production, where machinery was operated by unskilled or semi-skilled workers. Factors such as affordable transportation systems, urbanization, and increased access to capital and credit played pivotal roles in driving this transition towards factory production.

2. The establishment of a workforce accustomed to factory labor didn't take place smoothly. Prior to the emergence of factories, artisans typically worked from home. Apprentices were considered part of the family, with masters tasked not only with teaching them a trade but also providing education and overseeing their moral conduct. Journeymen understood that by honing their craft, they could ascend to respected master artisans with their own workshops. Moreover, skilled artisans didn't adhere to fixed schedules or work at a consistent pace; instead, they engaged in intermittent periods of intense labor interspersed with leisurely intervals.

3. The introduction of factories brought about a significant shift. Items manufactured in factories lacked the refined quality and intricate craftsmanship of handmade goods. The emphasis on pride in one's craftsmanship yielded to the necessity of increasing productivity rates. With the advent of new business methods came a heightened adherence to punctuality. Factory life imposed a structured schedule, with work commencing at the signal of a bell, and workers being expected to maintain a steady pace of operation. Additionally, industrialization necessitated a departure from old habits, demanding workers who were vigilant, reliable, and self-disciplined. Instances of absenteeism or tardiness hindered productivity and disrupted the established factory routine, given the specialized nature of tasks. Industrialization not only revolutionized the organization of work but also fundamentally altered its essence.

4. The initial generation to encounter these transformations found it challenging to embrace these mindsets. The factory clock emerged as a symbol of the altered work regulations. An example is provided by a mill worker who eventually resigned, articulating discontent about "obedience to the ding-dong of the bell—just as though we are so many living machines." With the erosion of personal liberties, there also came a decline in social standing. Unlike artisan workshops where apprentices closely collaborated with overseeing masters, factories created a distinct separation between laborers and management. Few workers ascended to supervisory roles, and even fewer realized the artisan's aspiration of establishing their own enterprise. Despite receiving adequate wages, workers sensed a deterioration in their societal status.

5. In this emerging economic landscape, workers occasionally came together to safeguard their rights and traditional lifestyles. Artisans such as carpenters, printers, and tailors formed unions, culminating in the formation of the National Trades' Union in 1834. While the labor movement gained traction in the years leading up to the Panic of 1837, the subsequent depression saw a sharp decline in labor's influence. During these challenging times, few workers were willing to strike or participate in collective actions. Moreover, skilled craft workers, who spearheaded the

unionization drive, felt little affinity with semi-skilled factory workers and unskilled laborers. Despite over a decade of agitation, the achievement of a 10-hour workday for most industries and the legal recognition of workers' right to strike in the 1850s had minimal immediate impact.

6. Workers shared a common resentment towards industrialization and the decline in their status, yet they were fragmented by various factors such as ethnic and racial divisions, gender disparities, conflicting religious beliefs, differing occupations, political affiliations, and disagreements regarding strategies. They viewed the factory and industrialism not as avenues for advancement, but rather as symbols of their diminished independence and control over their lives. With the increasing specialization and differentiation of United States society, wealth disparities became more pronounced. While the emergence of new markets brought fortunes to a select few, the factory system reduced wages for workers by breaking down labor into smaller, less specialized tasks.

88. What inference can be drawn from the passage regarding articles made before 1815?

- A. They were predominantly crafted by women.
- B. They were typically manufactured in workshops rather than households.
- C. They were crafted with greater emphasis on quality rather than speed.
- D. They were mainly produced in large cities with well-developed transportation systems.

89. Which option accurately conveys the main idea highlighted in the sentence from the passage? Incorrect choices alter or omit crucial information.

- A. Masters expected moral conduct from apprentices but sometimes treated them irresponsibly.
- B. Masters had obligations towards apprentices beyond just teaching a trade.
- C. Masters favored keeping the trade within the family through mentoring younger relatives.
- D. Masters who trained family members as apprentices insisted on their excellence.

90. In paragraph 4, why does the author incorporate the quotation from a mill worker?

- A. To bolster the notion that workers found it challenging to adapt to factory work.
- B. To illustrate instances where workers left their jobs due to the loud noise of machinery.
- C. To contend that clocks served no practical purpose in factories.
- D. To underscore the idea that factories thrived when workers voiced their grievances.

91. Which of the assertions regarding the labor movement of the 1800s is backed by paragraph 5?

- A. It thrived during periods of economic downturn.
- B. Its main aim was to aid unskilled laborers.
- C. Progress in enhancing conditions for workers was sluggish.

D. It facilitated the formation of a robust camaraderie among workers of varying skill level

92. Consider the excerpt provided below. The labels [I], [II], [III] and [IV] indicate potential insertion points for the following statement.

“This emerging method of manufacturing relied on the transportation of products to remote areas and a centralized pool of workers.”

Paragraph 1

Before 1815, manufacturing in the United States was primarily conducted within homes or workshops by proficient artisans. [I] These master craftworkers transmitted their trade expertise to apprentices and journeymen. [II] Additionally, women frequently engaged in part-time work from home, crafting finished goods using raw materials provided by merchant capitalists. [III] However, following 1815, this traditional mode of manufacturing gradually yielded to factory-based production, where machinery was operated by unskilled or semi-skilled workers. [IV] Factors such as affordable transportation systems, urbanization, and increased access to capital and credit played pivotal roles in driving this transition towards factory production.

In which option would the sentence be most appropriately placed?

A. Choice [I] **B.** Choice [II] **C.** Choice [III] **D.** Choice [IV]

93. The word "honing" in paragraph 2 is OPPOSITE in meaning to ____.

A. whet **B.** strop **C.** mar **D.** grind

94. Fill in the table provided by distinguishing between the answer choices that represent features of the era preceding 1815 and those that represent features of the period between 1815 and 1850. This question is worth 3 points.

Before 1815	1815-1850
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	

A. Before 1815: A-B-F; 1815-1850: D-E
1850: E-F

B. Before 1815: B-A-G; 1815-

C. Before 1815: B-F-G; 1815-1850: C-E

D. Before 1815: C-E-G; 1815-

1850: A-F

Answer Choices

A. A cohesive and notably effective labor movement emerged.

B. Workers found satisfaction in the quality of their craftsmanship.

- C. The disparity in wealth between the affluent and the impoverished widened significantly.
- D. Transportation infrastructure started to deteriorate.
- E. Priority was given to adhering to timetables.
- F. Laborers underwent prolonged training processes.
- G. There was minimal anticipation among workers to become a business owner

Your answer:

88.	89.	90.	91.	92.	93.	94.
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For questions 95–100, complete the summary with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS taken from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Before the rise of industrial manufacturing in the United States, production largely relied on decentralized craft systems in which skilled workers passed their expertise to apprentices within small domestic settings. Women also contributed to this system by assembling finished products from materials distributed by (95) _____.

This long-established arrangement began to decline after 1815 as new economic conditions—including improved transport networks, urban growth, and expanded financial resources—encouraged the spread of factories using machinery handled mainly by (96) _____ labor. The transition proved culturally disruptive because traditional craft organization had offered workers not only autonomy but also the realistic expectation of eventually becoming (97) _____ with workshops of their own. In contrast, factory employment required strict conformity to regulated schedules, symbolized most visibly by the discipline imposed through the ringing of the (98) _____.

Many workers consequently perceived industrialization as eroding both their independence and social standing. Although attempts were made to defend traditional labor practices through organizations such as the (99) _____, internal divisions and economic crises weakened collective resistance. Ultimately, the factory system intensified economic inequality as growing markets generated fortunes for a minority while the fragmentation of labor contributed to expanding (100) _____ in American society.

Part 5. In the passage below, five paragraphs have been removed. For questions 101 – 105, read the passage and choose from paragraphs A–G the one which fits each gap. There are TWO extra paragraphs which you do not need to use. Write the letters A–G in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

When it comes to music, the sounds of Houston are many, varied, and vastly influential. Strands of that legacy formed a brilliant backdrop for Chamber Music America’s National Conference, held for the first time in Houston in February 2025. Beginning five months before the gathering,

Houston artists and residents began working on “Sounds of Houston: Voices from a Changing Landscape.” The project was led by Sounds that Carry, a partnership of Renate Rohlfing and Olivia Cosío that develops programming for nonprofit organizations to strengthen communities through arts and creativity.

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The goal was to better understand and affect our collective attitudes toward environmental awareness and action. The project paired four resident narrators with artist collaborators to interview, record, and amplify stories of Houston communities through sonic memoirs—audio files that combined the voices of the resident narrators, the sounds of their environments, and original music.

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“If I hear a clap of thunder, I’m already grabbing my keys,” says Tangi Smith at the start of “An Ongoing Fight,” a sonic memoir created in collaboration with Aris Kian Brown. “Every time I hear that rain hit the top of my roof I think, ‘Will I have to go through what I went through in 2002’” she says, in reference to the effects of Tropical Storm Fay. Smith, executive director of the nonprofit Texas Federation of the People, tells a story that begins with her experience of Hurricane Alicia, and extends through her work in the frontlines of community relief efforts in 2024, when Hurricane Beryl left the Sunnyside community without power or much in the way of assistance for eight days, and First Missionary Baptist Church became a sole source of food, housing, and relief from the heat.

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In another sonic memoir, “Time,” the resonant tones of Jalen Baker’s vibraphone frame the testimony of Houstonian Nichole Redus with the earnestness and buoyancy of an organist at a church service. “We need time to be caught up with time,” Redus says—this soundbite gets repeated again and again, accentuating the feeling Redus relates of falling further and further behind in the wake of each storm. “I have never got approved for anything,” she says in another looped interview excerpt. “I never got help.” As Redus questions why some Houston neighborhoods lose power and lack resources whenever weather takes its toll, Baker’s five-note phrases seem to form question marks, underscoring her frustration.

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Lewellen had long admired and supported that work. For this sonic memoir, “We met and discussed their work for two hours,” he says, “and I recorded it all. Then I transcribed the conversation and focused on central themes—the challenges for refugees that are not often well expressed, and the lack of support in areas of navigating our legal and benefits systems.”. He bows long, broad tones as the two describe the slow progression and laborious work of arriving as immigrants and establishing a sense of security and support. As Minale and Andarge, in edited excerpts, describe the process of establishing trust among neighbors and of “training the trainers,”

so that their work regenerates throughout their community, Lewellen’s phrases form something like a folk song.

Another sonic memoir, “The Storms We Work,” pairs pianist Chelsea de Souza with Jaime Alvarado, a roofing contractor who moved to Houston in 2003 and has worked through many a storm season. As the flowing passages de Souza plays grow more animated, Alvarado recalls the experiences of homeowners attempting to repair their homes and to recover damages from insurance companies and other agencies. He wonders how much of their suffering is due to the vagaries of nature and how much is manmade: “Has it been the storms, or is it that the infrastructure wasn’t there?” he asks. With de Souza’s chiming chords as punctuation, Alvarado tells stories of a homeowner wading through waist-high water, and of baseball-sized hail that left scores of animals dead by the side of the road. Yet he also talks about the feeling of helping to alleviate pain. He feels a bond with his clients: “They just want to tell their stories. They just want someone to listen.”

Missing paragraphs:

A. Rohlfing says that this project “humanizes the abstract concept of climate change, making it tangible and immediate.” As a gentle patter of rain grows louder and more threatening in “An Ongoing Fight,” as Tangi Smith talks with increasing force about the trauma of being forced from her home again and again with each coming storm, that point resonates directly, the way art always does.

B. The effects of climate change are hard enough for those born and raised in Houston. They pose yet greater challenges for the many who arrive in the city as refugees. Those populations encounter a sense of environment—social and political, as well as physical—that can be difficult to navigate or even threatening. That’s the theme of “We Are the New Americans,” for which bassist and composer Austin Lewellen collaborated with Zed Minale and Belay Andarge, whose work through the Migrants and Refugees Leadership Academy (MARLA) brings leaders of diverse African communities together to learn leadership skills, empowering them to engage in civic activities and advocacy.

C. Houston is home to some of the most extreme climate disparities in the country, encountering increasingly frequent hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe heat waves. “Sounds of Houston,” a creative placemaking and oral history project, documented the personal experiences of Houstonians encountering the effects of climate change, as expressed through creative collaborations.

D. As the two speak of “wraparound services” and a brighter future, his notes grow deeper-toned and bolder. Lewellen sees this memoir as expressing a different sense of “building a sustainable environment in which to live, and notes, “There’s a lot to be said about the way that our government response to climate disaster has been neglectful toward certain communities.”

E. Brown strums a guitar for some sections of this seven-minute soundscape. “I’m not a musician,” Brown, who is currently Houston’s poet laureate, tells me. “This project was a way to utilize my poetic tools to highlight the story of a courageous Houstonian.” The score Brown creates here is chiefly defined by the sounds of rainfall that she recorded near her home; it forms a constant backdrop to Smith’s narrative, just as it does for the lives of Houstonians like her. Smith talks about being traumatized but also “being strong for my community.” Near the end, she describes her desire for an ongoing dialogue rather than of the waves of news cycles that trail off a few days past each disaster.

F. The project looked beyond documentation and artistic expression. “By creating collaborative sonic memoirs,” Rohlfing says, “we aim to uncover how this process shapes perceptions of climate change, and to investigate whether hearing lived experiences through a combination of sound and music can drive meaningful change in attitudes toward climate justice. Can listening inspire action as opposed to just empathy?”

G. At the CMA Conference, some 40 musicians, presenters, and arts administrators did listen, closely, during a panel devoted to the project. “We didn’t know what to expect,” says Rohlfing, of the presentation. “Some in the room were brought to tears.” Yet beyond raw emotions was a process of data gathering and shifting perceptions. Before and after experiencing the sonic memoirs, those assembled took surveys about their awareness of climate change, their involvement in activism around environmental justice, and the ways in which they learn about these topics. There was a corresponding survey after listening to the project.

III. WRITING (5.0 points)

Part I. The tables below shows the most recent prices per liter of octane-95 gasoline, regular diesel, and other fuels:

USA fuel prices, electricity prices, natural gas prices

Fuels, price per liter	Date	USD
Gasoline prices	16.03.2026	1.075
Diesel prices	16.03.2026	1.34
Ethanol prices	16.03.2026	0.79

and the prices of natural gas:

Natural gas prices per kWh	Date	USD
Households	01.06.2025	0.047
Business	01.06.2025	0.048

The chart describes the price of natural in the US in a 6-month period:



Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. You should write about 150 words.

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

Many educators and parents argue that “When social media becomes the mirror students look into, it also becomes the sculptor shaping their identity.”

To what extent do you agree or disagree?” Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge and experience.