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| **TRƯỜNG THPT CHUYÊN  NGUYỄN TẤT THÀNH - YÊN BÁI**  **ĐỀ THI ĐỀ XUẤT**  *( Đề này có 16 trang)* | **TRẠI HÈ HÙNG VƯƠNG**  **LẦN THỨ XVIII, NĂM 2024**  **ĐỀ THI MÔN TIẾNG ANH – LỚP 11**  *Thời gian: 180 phút*  *(không kể thời gian giao đề)* |

**SECTION I: LISTENING**

***Part 1****:* ***Complete the notes below with ONLY ONE WORD for each numbered blank***

****Microplastics****

****Where microplastics come from****

* fibres from some ****1**** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ during washing
* the breakdown of large pieces of plastic
* waste from industry
* the action of vehicle tyres on roads

****Effects of microplastics****

* They cause injuries to the ****2**** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of wildlife and affect their digestive systems.
* They enter the food chain, e.g., in bottled and tap water, ****3**** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and seafood.
* They may not affect human health, but they are already banned in skin cleaning products and ****4**** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in some countries.
* Microplastics enter the soil through the air, rain and ****5**** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

****Microplastics in the soil – a study by Anglia Ruskin University****

* Earthworms are important because they add ****6**** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the soil.
* The study aimed to find whether microplastics in earthworms affect the ****7**** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of plants.
* The study found that microplastics caused:
* ****8**** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ loss in earthworms
* fewer seeds to germinate
* a rise in the level of ****9**** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the soil.
* The study concluded:
* **soil should be seen as an important natural process.**
* **changes to soil damage both ecosystems and **10** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

***Part 2: Listen to the following recording and answer the following questions. Write NO MORE THAN FIVE WORDS for each answer.***

1. What combines with bacteria to produce body odor?
2. At what stage of life do apocrine glands typically develop?
3. What type of chemicals give body odor its oniony aroma?
4. What detects odor molecules at very low concentrations?
5. Which ethnic group commonly has a gene variant that nearly eliminates body odor?

***Your answers:***

| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

***Part 3: Listen to a talk about indoor ice skating rinks and decide whether these statements are True (T), False (F). Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.***

1. Ice skating was initially developed as a recreational activity in Northern Europe.
2. The first indoor ice rink in London opened in 1876 and quickly spread across the country.
3. Electric refrigeration played a significant role in the popularity of ice skating in the early 20th century.
4. The third layer of ice in a rink acts as a sealer for the paint and is painted over to create decorative backgrounds.·
5. The final layer of ice in a rink is applied quickly using a hose to ensure uniform thickness.

***Your answers:***

| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

***Part 4: You will hear an interview with a man called Seth Jeavons, who organizes an annual three-day pop music festival. Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.***

1. According to Seth, what mistake do people who are going to camp at the festival frequently make?
2. They forget how cold it can be at night
3. They take nothing to sleep on
4. They have no form of light
5. They underestimate the size of tent needed
6. Which problem at the festival has now been solved?
7. The space for people watching the the main band
8. The capacity of the sound system
9. The location of the car parks
10. The level of security for bands
11. Seith believes his festival is more suitable for children than other similar festivals because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
12. There are special family cafe’ with healthy food
13. Specific entertainment is organized for them
14. There is a separate campsite for families
15. Trained staff are available to look after them
16. Seith predicts that the bands attracting the most people this year will be those which \_\_\_\_\_
17. Encourage audience participation C. Have the best special effects
18. Are rarely seen at live events D. Have the most famous names
19. According to Seith, why should people go to a big live festival?
20. It wil leave a lasting impression on them
21. The audiences are as interesting as events
22. They will see acts not covered by the media
23. It will be a chance to discover new music

***Your answers:***

| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

**SECTION II: LEXICO-GRAMMAR (3.0 points)**

**Part 1: Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) that best fits each of the following questions**

1. I'm not a serious investor, but I like to \_\_\_\_\_\_ in the stock market.

A. splash B. splatter C. paddle D. dabble

2. We should never have quarreled like that. Let’s bury the \_\_\_\_\_\_and forget all about it.

A. axe B. argument C. hatchet D. subject

3. Her eyes were tired from gazing at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  screen of her computer all day.

A. flickering B. twinkling  C. glimmering  D. sparkling

4. The school has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tolerance policy on the use of mobile phones during school hours.

A. never B. none C. zero D. nil

5. I would give up my job \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if only I could find a better one.

A. on the spur of the moment B. on the dot

C. at one swoop D. at the drop of a hat.

6. Successful people are always ready to seize an opportunity whenever it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ itself.

A. reveals B. appears C. displays D. presents

7. Many people feel that President Donald Trump is, whether by accident or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, starting a war with Iran.

A. design B. intent C. purpose D. motive

8. Sheila will inherit everything \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her uncle’s death.

A. on account of B. in spite of

C. in the event of D. in place of

9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the director must have surprised you.

A. You’re being nominated B. You nominated

C. Your being nominated D. You nominating

10. The scheme offers employees an opportunity to move into these fast-growing fields if they are good enough, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their seniority.

A. no matter what B. whichever C. regardless what D. irrespective

11. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ talking of running for election again, after such a crushing defeat, is surely proof of his resilience.

A. Should he be B. That he is C. Had he been D. That he were

12. I didn’t want to make a decision \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so I said I’d like to think about it.

A. in one go B. there and then C. at a stroke D. on and off

13. She’s a bit down in the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the moment – her husband has just lost his job.

A. world B. dumps C. heart D. bottom

14. “How did you know that he was lying?” – “It was just a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ feeling.”

A. faint B. gut C. slight D. vain

15. Mike decided that election to the local council would provide a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a career in national politics.

A. milestone B. springboard C. highway D. turning point

***Your answers:***

| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. |
| 11. | 12. | 13. | 14. | 15. |

***Part 2. There are five mistakes in the following passage. Find and correct them***

The word processor and calculator are without doubt here to stay, and in many respects of our lives are much richer for us. But teachers and other academics are claiming that we are now starting to feel the first significant wave of their effects on generation for users.It seems nobody under the age of 20 can spell nor add up any more. Even several professors at leading universities have commented about the detrimental effect the digital revolution has had at the most intelligent young minds in the country.The problem, evidently, lies with the automatically spell-check now widely available on word processing software.

***Your answers***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Line** | **Mistake** | **Correction** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
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***Part 3.Write the correct form of each bracketed word in each sentence in the corresponding numbered spaces provided in the column on the right.***

|  |
| --- |
| 1. She is totally (SUFFICE) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and doesn’t need help from anyone. |
| 2. The government (TRACK) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on plans that would have increased taxes. |
| 3. It was sheer (SANE)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to try to drive through the mountains in that thunderstorm.  4. The tax rise has (FLAME) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the citizens of the country to such an extent that there would likely be some demonstrations.  5.The president of this company is merely a (HEAD) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - the Chief Executive is the one who is truly in control.  6. The report is critical of attempts by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(OFFICIAL) to deal with the problem of homelessness.  7. The system of counties was essential to Frankish government, and a count could wield considerable power, particularly in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (FAR) regions.  8. Darwin's theory of evolution was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SHED) dividing the old way of thinking from the new.  9.Both Hathor and her potential victims became \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (EXCEED) drunk and merry, so she failed at her task.  10. She's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (FAIL) cheerful no matter what the circumstances. |

***Your answers***

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

**READING**

**Part 1.Choose the words or phrases that best fit the blanks to make a complete passage**

**ROWLING’S PROMISE TO SAVE FORESTS**

The popular writer L K Rowling has agreed to end her part in the (1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the world’s forest by having her books printed on paper which is environmentally friendly. The multimillionaire author, whose novels about a teenage wizard have consumed 6.5 million trees so far, is one of a number high profile authors who have (2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their support for the environment by stipulating that only recycled paper (3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for their books. Techniques (4)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Canada mean that, for the first time, paper made from such materils as office waste paper can be used to make books.The Canadian edition of Rowling’s last book was printed without chopping down a single tree, saving an (5)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 40,000 of them.

In the past it was difficult to print books on recycled paper because the paper was not strong enough to (6)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a life’s time reading. Technological advances mean that paper which is (7)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from waste material is now just durable as paper made from virgin fibre in terms of quality and strength.

Despite the high cost of developing recycled paper the has the required strenght and whiteness needed for books, there will not (8)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be price rise for the reader. Instead, publishers are likely to (9)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the higher paper cost by using cheaper book covers, as (10)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Canada.

1. A. demolition B. desolation C. destruction D. destitution

2. A. contracted B.pledged C. secured D. undertaken

3. A. be used B. is used C. using D. to be used

4. A. founded B. inaugurated C. led D. pioneered

5.A. estimated B. assessed C. established D. evaluated

6. A. experience B. withstand C. confront D. encounter

7. A. manufactured B. constructed C. devised D. formed

8. A. certainly B. naturally C. absolutely D. necessarily

9. A. balance B. compensate C. return D. refund

10. A. developed B. arose C. happened D. followed

***Your answers***

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

**Part 2. *Fill in each blank with ONE suitable word. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.***

**The Sensual Shopper**

How can retail stores encourage customers to (1) .\_\_\_\_\_\_ with their money? Here's how the good stores do it. We were performing a study for RadioShack just (2).\_\_\_\_\_\_ the chain had decided to try to become America's favorite phone store. We watched countless shoppers approach the wall of telephones on display, look them all (3).\_\_\_\_\_\_, check out the prices and then, almost (4).\_\_\_\_\_\_ exception, pick up a phone and hold it up to an ear. What were they hoping for? Nothing, probably - it's just a reflex action, I think what else do you *do* with a phone? On what other basis do you compare phones but (5).\_\_\_\_\_\_ how they feel in your hand and (6).\_\_\_\_\_\_ your ear.

Well, we reasoned, if the first principle (7).\_\_\_\_\_\_ trial is to make it as lifelike as possible, you can complete the experience by putting a voice in that phone. We advised RadioShack to connect the phones to a recorded message that could be activated when a receiver was lifted. Once that happened, the stores were alive (8).\_\_\_\_\_\_ shoppers picking up display phones, listening (9).\_\_\_\_\_\_ moment and then holding the receivers out for their companions to hear, (10)\_\_\_\_\_\_ was a bonus, because that would provide some basis for discussing the purchase, which greatly increases the chances that something will be bought.

***Your answers***

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

**Part 3. *For questions 1-10 , read the following passage about the human immune system and choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D) according to the text. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.***

**The Human Immune System**

The human immune system is composed of both an innate and an adaptive immune system. First, humans have an innate immune system that is **intrinsic** in all organisms, and it functions particularly through establishing biological barriers and creating biochemical reactions that immediately respond with a maximal effort in order to destroy infectious microbes. **[A]** Second, humans have an adaptive immune system, which can only be found in vertebrates with jaws. **[B]** The adaptive immune system gains an immunological memory from previously encountered germs, so it is able to prevent these specific microbes from causing further infection. **[C]** With these dual capacities of fighting infection and acquiring resistance to germs, humans can maximize their immunity. **[D]**

A person’s innate immune system has many complex barriers and biochemical reactions designed to ward off infections. The most visible one is the skin, which keeps most bacteria, fungi, and viruses from ever entering the body, but humans also have mucus, which traps germs that reside in the body’s tissue. In addition to such biological material, there are other internal barriers like gastric acids, tears, saliva, urine, and various chemicals that either destroy or flush out germs. Even involuntary functions like sneezing and coughing are barriers that serve to expel germs. Beyond these, there are biochemical reactions that come from leukocytes, which are found in the blood. Leukocytes are white blood cells that effectively clear out cellular debris, create inflammation near an infection, summon immune cells to the inflammation, activate several other chemical reactions, and even destroy tumors. However, perhaps the most important action these cells perform is activating a human’s adaptive immune system, which is essential in not only curing current diseases but also preventing future infections.

With an adaptive immune system, cells learn how to best combat pathogens and develop a higher resistance to them. Like the innate immune system, this involves chemical reactions and cellular cooperation. Unlike the innate immune system, this system doesn’t respond very quickly or with its full strength all at once. Instead, it uses its time and energy to provide cells with an immunological memory to the pathogens they encounter, making them more resistant to recurring infections (similarly to how a vaccination works). Certain white blood cells called T-cells are the principal actors in this system; these identify “self” cells with the same DNA and distinguish them from any foreign cells with different DNA.After this, they seek and destroy these foreign cells, whether they are invading microbes or infected host cells. T-cells also **mediate** the responses from the innate and adaptive immune systems so that the body can effectively exterminate the infection.

After destroying infectious cells, the body uses B-cells to develop antibodies, or specialized proteins that prevent future infections. A B-cell is designed to connect with an individual type of antigen created by an infectious cell. The B-cell uses this antigen to produce antibodies that seek out and neutralize infectious bacteria, fungi, and viruses. However, the most important process comes after the infection disappears: these B-cells will duplicate, and their **progeny** will manufacture the same antibodies. Thus, the body will constantly produce antibodies that successfully fight off a specific infection, and the body can successfully fight off any subsequent infections from this pathogen. In addition to this, B-cells also mark antigens for leukocytes to attack, thus making them and microbes easier targets for the biochemical reaction.

An interesting feature of the human immune system is how it affects infants both before and after birth. When babies are first born, they do not have very many previously formed antibodies, so they have a greater risk of infection than adults do. However, they ward off many infections by temporarily obtaining the mother’s antibodies from breast milk and nutrients passed through the placenta.Also interesting is the very **inception** of the fetus among such an aggressive immune system: somehow, the fetus, which doesn’t have its mother’s exact DNA, is ignored by the mother’s T-cells and B-cells. Scientists currently have a few theories about this phenomenon. For instance, the uterus may not be monitored by white blood cells, or it may produce special proteins that suppress any local immune responses. Nonetheless, the fact that the immune system restrains its programming for reproductive development continues to puzzle many scientists.

1. The word **intrinsic** in the passage is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. fundamental B. auxiliary C. detrimental D. extraordinary

2. Which of the following square brackets **[A]**, **[B]**, **[C]**, or **[D]** best indicates where in the paragraph the sentence ‘***However, this particular action never changes to counter specific threats of infection’*** can be inserted?

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

3. According to passage 2, which bodily fluid initiates biochemical reactions in a human’s innate immune system?

A. urine B. blood C. saliva D. tears

4. The word **mediate** in the passage is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. interrupt B. magnify C. contemplate D. coordinate

5. Based on the information in paragraph 3, what can be inferred about the adaptive immune system?

A. Because it takes so long to act, it is less effective in purging infectious cells than the innate immune system.

B. Even though it takes longer to act, it is more effective in long term immunity than the innate immune system.

C. Because humans already have an innate immune system, this system is unnecessary and only used as a substitute.

D. It works differently from the innate immune system, so the two are completely independent of one another.

6. The word **progeny** in the passage is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. willingness B. mechanism C. offspring D. mutation

7. According to paragraph 4, what do B-cells produce?

A. antigens B. antibodies C. leukocytes D. pathogens

8. The word **inception** in the passage is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. conception B. invulnerability C. contamination D. consumption

9. According to paragraph 5, where do newborn babies get most of their antibodies?

A. from their own white blood cells B. from immune cells in the uterus

C. from mucus and other barriers D. from breast milk and the placenta

10. Based on the information in paragraph 5, what can be inferred about how the mother’s immune system should scientifically be affecting the fetus?

A. It should protect the fetus from infection.

B. It should help develop cells in the fetus.

C. It should be attacking foreign fetal cells.

D. It should be exposing the fetus to microbes.

**Your answers:**

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

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

**EXPANDING CONSCIOUSNESS**

A brain-damaged patient suffering from prosopagnosia cannot recognize familiar faces although her vision is other intact. She has awareness without recognition. A patient with blindsight is blind in parts of his visual field, but if asked to guess the location of objects in those “blind” spots, he is more than likely to guess right. He has recognition without awareness. Are both these patients conscious?

How the brain produces consciousness is a question that has puzzled philosophers and scientists for millennia, and many of them have looked to brain-damaged patients for the answer. Consider a patient with Parkinson’s disease who wants to move his legs but cannot. His thoughts have become severed from his actions, and that dissociation seems to be related to the lack of a certain chemical, dopamine, in one area of his brain. But why dopamine should perform that particular function in that particular area nobody knows.

What studies of brain damage reveal is that consciousness has many facets. But it can be a dangerous approach because it rests on the assumption that each part of the brain that contributes to consciousness does so consistently over time. Yet, if consciousness is dynamic rather than static, if the conscious functions performed by a certain body of neurons in the brain are transient, then the functions lost when a brain receives a blow at a specific point in time could differ from that might have been lost a moment later.

In the past, scientists have searched for discrete switches at the neuronal level- singular, all-or-nothing events which when put together give rise to a global sensibility. But how and where the translation from physical to mental takes place remains a mystery, not least because those on/off neuronal mechanisms seem so incompatible with the diffuse and indefinable property of consciousness.

In *Journey to the Centers of the Mind*, neuroscientist Susan Greenfield suggests that the underlying physical processes are no less complex and diffuse than consciousness itself. Consciousness is not located in one region of the brain, one neuron or one molecule, and it does not necessarily go hand in hand with stimulation of the senses. But each conscious experience is singular in time. She describes shades of subtlety in the activities of neurons: they can be biased to respond in certain ways and in the sense that their behavior is shaped by past experience; they even have memory. The action potential, the firing of a cell in response to stimulation, might be an all-or-nothing event, but the threshold at which a neuron produces an electrical signal can be lowered or raised incrementally.

By the same token, consciousness is better viewed as a continuum rather than as an all-or-nothing phenomenon. Greenfield suggests that it is the product of large interacting groups of neurons which form and reform rapidly around a triggering stimulus like concentric ripples on the surface of a pond. And the size of each neuronal assembly or “gestalt” is determined by the brain’s level of arousal at a particular moment in time. Arousal is, in turn, controlled by chemicals called amines (neuromodulators) that are produced in the most primitive part of the brain. According to Greenfield’s theory, fountains of these neuromodulators diffuse upwards and outwards from neurons in the brainstem, and it is these chemicals which bias the firing threshold of neurons in the rest of the brain – even in the sophisticated outer cortex. By so doing, they dictate the number of neurons that will be incorporated in each gestalt, and so determine the depth of the emerging consciousness. In this way, each conscious experience is qualitatively unique.

The idea of neuronal assemblies is not new. But the concept of consciousness as something that shrinks and expands, growing in depth as the brain grows physically, is a new departure. Very young children have no sense of other people’s thought processes – their consciousness is egocentric. But by the age of about four they have begun to project mental states onto others. And brain-damaged patients, whose brains have effectively been reduced in size, have something in common with children. Both function at a shallower level of consciousness because stimuli trigger relatively small gestalts in their brains.

Greenfield does not pretend to have uncovered the secret of consciousness. Her theory cannot answer all the questions, but it may have brought us a small step closer to a physical explanation of what it is to be human.

**Questions 1 - 6. Complete the gaps in the following summary by using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS taken from the Reading Passage.**

Consciousness is a state of mind that has interested philosophers and scientists for thousands of years. However, our understanding of it has remained fairly basic. For example, scientists do not know whether the (**1**)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a prosopagnosia patient means the same as consciousness and whether dopamine in the brain is linked with dissociation of the thoughts and actions of someone with Parkinson’s disease.

Susan Greenfield’s theory has added a new dimension to our understanding of consciousness. She feels that consciousness and stimulation of the senses are not attached to each other and the responses of (**2.**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which are closely related to a global sensitivity of the body, have patterns which may have been conditioned by (**3.**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Consciousness is not a yes-or-no state of mental and physical condition; it is a (**4.**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that has a range. Within this range, there is a chain of interactions between the quantity of amines and (**5.**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, between gestalt and the depth of consciousness. These interactions ultimately (**6.**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the level of consciousness.

**Questions 7 - 10. Do the following statements agree with the writer in the Reading Passage? In boxes 7 - 10 on your answer sheet, write:**

**YES**  if the statements agrees with the claims of the writer

**NO** if the statements contradicts with the claims of the writer

**NOT GIVEN**  if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

**7.** Consciousness is a state of mind that has multi-fold dimensions.

**8.** A man is either conscious or unconscious of what is happening around him.

**9.** Patients with blindsight have visions that normal people are not able to see.

**10.** Cases of blindsight and prosopagnosia disease support Greenfield’s theory.

**Your answer :**

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

**Part 5. *The passage below consists of four paragraphs marked A, B, C and D. For questions 1-10, read the passage and do the task that follows*.**

**The Future is History**

**(A) The Guardian**

In her clinical practice during the 1990s, Moscow psychoanalyst Marina Arutyunyan encountered three generations of women living under the same roof. The grandmother tyrannised her daughter and granddaughter with demands for needless work and repeated invasions of their privacy. Her behaviour was finally explained when it emerged that she was a former guard in the Gulag, 'The family was now recast as a camp, complete with dead-end make-work, the primacy of discipline, and the total abolition of personal boundaries.' Cases such as this led Arutyunyan to a wider diagnosis of Russia as a traumatised society unable to free itself from the psychological subjugation fostered during the long decades of Soviet rule. The 'main resource' of this increasingly repressive and authoritarian state is 'the Soviet citizen weaned on generations of doublethink and collective hostage-taking' - 'Homo Sovieticus'. As diagnosed in 1989 by Yuri Levada, sociologist and the founder of Russia's first polling organisation, Homo Sovieticus was in favour of a powerful paternalistic state, deeply conformist and suspicious of all and any individual initiative that threatened to destabilise existing group hierarchies and identities. A fascinating but flawed account, *The Future is History* presents a Russia whose future in fact stands outside history, as its people are condemned decade after decade to rehearse the same drama of tyranny and obedience.

**(B) The NY Times**

Russia has certainly been in the news a great deal lately, and Americans are divided on the subject: Most continue to think that it is a menacing and hostile power that interfered in last year's election, while a rising percentage of Republicans, following President Trump, now have a more positive view of the country. Outlooks on both sides are heavily shaped by the imperatives of domestic American politics, leaving a void in understanding. What, in fact, is the nature of the beast we are confronting? This is the underlying topic that Masha Gessen seeks to address in her fascinating and deeply felt new book, *The Future is History*. The book provides a straightforward narrative of the events taking place in Russia since the 1980s - the unexpected liberalization under Gorbachev and the heady years from 1989 to 1991 when many former Soviet citizens found themselves living, literally, in a different country; and then the regression - from the attack on the Moscow White House under Yeltsin in 1993, through two Chechen wars, the relentless rise of Putin and finally the Nemtsov assassination. Typically, the historical significance of these moments was not visible to Gessen's interlocutors at the time. They were busy with their lives and personal struggles, but they found that politics became a crushing force that none of them in the end could escape.

**(C) Good Reads**

Putin's bestselling biographer reveals how, in the space of a generation, Russia surrendered to a more virulent and invincible new strain of autocracy. Hailed for her 'fearless indictment of the most powerful man in Russia', award-winning journalist Masha Gessen is unparalleled in her understanding of the events and forces that have wracked her native country in recent times. In *The Future is History*, she follows the lives of four people born at what promised to be the dawn of democracy. Each came of age with unprecedented expectations, some as the children and grandchildren of the very architects of the new Russia, each with newfound aspirations of their own - as entrepreneurs, activists, thinkers, and writers, sexual and social beings. Gessen charts their paths not only against the machinations of the regime that would crush them all, but also against the war it waged on understanding itself, ensuring the unobstructed reemergence of the old Soviet order in the form of today's terrifying and seemingly unstoppable mafia state. Powerful and urgent, *The Future is History* is a cautionary tale for our time and for all time.

**(D) Kirkus**

*The Future is History* - a brilliant if somber look at modern Russia, a failed democracy, by prizewinning journalist Gessen (The Brothers - The Road to an American Tragedy, 2015, etc.). First there were the serfs, and then 'Homo Sovieticus,' the gloomily obedient men, women, and children who waited in bread lines and slaved in mines and factories. Are they the avatars of the good old days? With Vladimir Putin's rise and increasingly absolutist rule, there may be something to the old saw that the Russian soul craves authoritarianism. Yet, as Gessen, who has written extensively on Putin, writes, that may flat out not be so. As she notes in this urgent chronicle, examining the Russian character through sociological instruments was frowned on, even banned, until the late 1960s, when Yuri Levada, who turns up at several points in this long narrative, began to look at how ordinary Russians thought about their society. For one thing, later surveys showed that although some wanted 'rockers,' 'hippies,' and 'pederasts' to be liquidated, a far larger number advocated tolerance, especially younger Russians. Those younger Russians are the focus of the author's character-driven approach, a kind of nonfiction novel that compares favorably to the work of Svetlana Alexievich. One of Gessen's cases in point, a still-youngish woman named Masha, has learned to work every angle thanks to a resourceful mother who, among other things, figured out ways to 'teach Soviet Jews to beat the anti-Semitic machine.' By all rights, Masha, entrepreneurial and smart, ought to be in the forefront of Russian development, but having run afoul of Putin's regime, she is effectively a nonperson.

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| **Which text** | **Your answers** | |
| references previous publications by the same author? | 1. |  |
| gives the reason behind the treatment of a family member? | 2. |  |
| asserts the author is unmatched in knowledge? | 3. |  |
| states that the book gives an uncluttered view of the situation? | 4. |  |
| tells of why Masha's character is diminished? | 5. |  |
| states that the book is inaccurate? | 6. |  |
| declares the appetite for an alternative approach by a greater number of the demographic? | 7. |  |
| indicates an ironical shift in perspective? | 8. |  |
| invokes a quote from the book which uses an Orwellian term? | 9. |  |
| illustrates that Gessen supports a different view than that of a more ingrained one? | 10. |  |

***Your answers***

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

**SECTION IV: WRITING (6.0 points)**

**Part 1. Summary (1.0 pts)**

***Read the following text and use your own words to summarize it. Your summary should be about 100-120 words long. You MUST NOT copy the original.***

The popularity of diet crazes over the last 30 years shows that many of us think we are overweight. It also suggests that we want to do something about it. Diet books with the latest scientific advice become best sellers, and yet we continue to gain weight. Who’s responsible? It’s easy to blame scientific experts, but in fact, the problem is often with us, the dieters. We can’t lose weight because of the way we think about food. If we cannot follow a plan every day, no diet book can help. Many dieters change from one type of diet to another, so they never allow their bodies to get into a healthy rhythm. Others start out strongly on a program and lose a few pounds. Then, when their weight stays the same for a few weeks, they become discouraged and lose their self-control. If the weight doesn’t go away quickly, they give up.

But the number on the scale is not our challenge. Modern life is so fast and stressful that many diets are ruined by “comfort eating”. When we feel down, we want a slice of cheesecake or a chocolate brownie with ice cream to make us feel better. We use food as an escape. On the other hand, some of us use food as a reward. If we’ve done something well, we think we “deserve it”. We also need to pay attention to the food we eat. We should read food labels carefully and remember that we are often misled by them. Although a food package may say “low fat”, manufacturers sometimes replace the fat with carbon hydrates, sugar, and other fattening substances. In addition, they may not take out much of the fat. Low-fat ice cream can have 70% of the fat or regular ice cream, so a scoop and a half of low-fat ice cream is more fattening than one scoop of regular. There are just a few of the reasons why our diets fail, but they all arise from our state of mind and our ability to pay attention. The next time you reach for the cookie jar, remember: control your mind and you can control your body! The most important factor in losing weight is in our heads.

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***Part 2. Chart description.(2.0pts)***

The table shows the percentage of different types of household waste that were recycled in one city between 1992 and 2002.

*Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. Write at least 150 words.*

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***Part 3: Write an essay of no more than 350 words to express your opinion on the following issue (3.0 pts)***

Many employees can now do their work from home using modern technology. However, this change may only benefit workers, not the employers.

*To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

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**THE END**